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THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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MBA and Harpeth Hall React to Women's Marches

*By Isaac Wills
Staff Writer*

There is no denying the nationwide response to the rise of the Trump administration and its endeavors. President Trump has been in office for only two weeks, and he has already enacted a series of controversial measures. Between his order to commence the building of the U.S.-Mexico Wall and his immigration ban, the Trump's actions have stimulated debate, protest, and even rioting. Yet one such response by the American public has not come as a direct result of one of Trump's executive orders or policies: the women's marches.

To consider this movement, let's consider this year's school theme: empathy. MBA has placed an emphasis students' ability to understand experiences and circumstances foreign to their own. With that in mind, *The Bell Ringer* reached out to several Harpeth Hall students, as well as MBA faculty members and students, to gather various opinions on this movement.

All three of the Harpeth Hall students who participated in this discussion went to one of the marches. Lizzy Asad and another junior who wishes to remain anonymous (HH Student 2) both participated in the march in Washington,

Debate Wins Barkley Forum to Reach Soaring Heights

*By Aden Barton
Staff Debater*

As the second semester begins, the MBA debate team has begun to set its sights on the National Championship. After winning not only the Glenbrooks tournament but also the ensuing round robin, MBA debate pair Ben Rosenthal and Andrew Kaplan are now ranked number one in the nation. However, the team has no time to rest on its laurels. Nothing is guaranteed from this point forward. Tournaments will become more and more competitive; teams that commit themselves to hours and hours of research will be separated from those that don't.

During one of the busiest debate weekends of the year, the MBA debate team split up and journeyed to Chicago

and Atlanta. At the Westminster tournament in Georgia, partners Ben Jablonski and John Cooper closed out the first two speaker positions, and Julian Habermann followed close behind with 6th speaker. In the Junior Varsity Division, MBA also won 1st speaker with debater Tanuj Koli having an excellent performance. The team of Thomas Zeuthen and John Raulston Graham made it to semifinals before being walked over by Alex Kalams and Tanuj Koli who would go on to win the tournament.

Meanwhile, in the Windy City, MBA dominated the competition. The team of Ben Rosenthal and Andrew Kaplan combined with the team of Liam Jameson and Atticus Glen went 7-0 and 6-1 in prelims, respectively. After Liam and Atticus lost a close round to a

great team, only Rosenthal and Kaplan remained. After beating three top teams in the nation, Ben and Andrew once again came up against their rivals from Peninsula High School. But this time, MBA came out on top, winning the Glenbrooks Tournament for the first time since 1998.

Following the tournament, seven of the best debate teams in the nation competed in the Glenbrooks Round Robin. Showing that beating Peninsula once was not just a fluke, Kaplan and Rosenthal beat their rivals again and finished first with a record of 5-1.

With 2016 coming to an end, the team set out for one last tournament: The Ohio Valley Invitational. In the Novice section,

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MBA and Harpeth Hall Commemorate Pearl Harbor with Bush and Dole

By Philip Scholer
Assistant News Editor

In mid-December a group of MBA students, led by Colonel Sharbel and Captain Norton, attended a commemoration event for the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor at the President George H. W. Bush Library in College Town, Texas. MBA father Jon Meacham, who wrote the authoritative biography on President Bush, invited the group to the day-long event.

Once the group arrived in College Station, they—through Mr. Meacham's coordination—met President Bush, Mrs. Bush, and Senator Bob Dole, who received the Bush Presidential Library's Public Service Award that afternoon. After meeting the 41st president, the group went outside to witness the commemoration ceremony.

The ceremony honored the twenty-two World War II veterans, including President Bush and Senator Dole, in attendance, as well as those who have served and our serving to protect our freedom. Furthermore, the George H. W. Bush Presidential Library held the outdoor ceremony in remembrance of the over 2,000 American lives lost at Pearl Harbor seventy-five years ago on December 7, 1941.

Featuring patriotic songs, prayers, and a fly-over of World War II planes, the ceremony celebrated not only the Americans who fought in World War

II, but of all who contributed to the war effort. For example, Mrs. Bush, taking FDR's call for production, worked in a nuts and bolts factory during the war, demonstrating that many Americans at home took the call to service and contributed in a meaningful way—the war absorbed the entire nation.

A panel in the Presidential Library auditorium followed the ceremony. The panel began with an informative video on Pearl Harbor and continued with a discussion panel that included James Bradley, author of **Flyboys** about Lt. George Herbert Walker Bush's World War II service in the Pacific, Jon Meacham, and Rear Admiral DeWolfe Miller. The panel discussed President Bush's and Senator Dole's service during World War II.

Bush was a senior in high school when he first heard about the attack, and the next year, on his eighteenth birthday, the day he graduated high school and was eligible to serve, enlisted in the Navy. Bush served as a pilot in the Pacific Front, conducting flyovers over Japanese bases on Pacific Islands. During one of these missions, destroying a Japanese radio tower on the island of Chichi Jima, Bush's plane was shot down, but he continued his mission and then jumped out of the plane. Dole, serving in Europe, was severely wounded charging a German machine-gun nest in Sicily.

These politicians who first served their country in war embody the



RECONNECTING: Mark Floyd '16, currently enrolled in the ROTC program at Texas A&M, chilling with Mr. Norton.

last of a generation—a generation bound by a common moral purpose of serving America's interests against a common enemy, the panel commented. Despite all that this generation sacrificed in the war, when V-day arrived, humility presided over crowing. Journalist Ernie Pyle told the nation, "I hope that in victory we are more grateful than we are proud."

The rapport between Bush and Dole rests on this generational humility—both men viewed what they served as greater than themselves. Serving this country was not about beating the other guy, but instead, about advancing good.

Honoring Dole's service—during World II and as a public servant—Bush awarded Dole with the Bush Presidential Library's Public Service Award, looking past their numerous and fierce political disputes. The duty and responsibility these former political adversaries feel allowed their respect for each other to outweigh their campaign battles.

Ending with reverential song, the panel concluded, and the group made its next and final stop, a tour of President George H. W. Bush Presidential Library.

ASSEMBLED: MBA and Harpeth Hall students line up on a school trip to Texas coordinated by MBA parent and bestselling biographer Jon Meacham.



Cont. from Front Page

D.C. Each reflected on what the march meant to them.

Lizzy shared, “I wouldn’t say it was a march strictly reserved for feminism. To me, feminism revolves around social, political, and economic equality of all sexes. I personally chose to identify as an intersectional feminist, which basically means I advocate for the examination of how a woman’s race, class, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation affect her experience with discrimination. To me, the march focused on raising the voices of those who feel oppressed by society in some way.”

On a more political note, HH Student 2 discussed her motivation: “It was a way for women and men alike to come together and proclaim that the [Trump] administration cannot take away our rights without resistance from Americans and people around the world. Trump has said very disturbing things about women, and the women’s march served to promote the idea this his remarks are not okay, and that he cannot remain saying things as he used to now that he is in the Oval Office.”

HH Student 3, who also wishes to remain anonymous, participated in the Nashville march. She emphasized the importance of identification and orientation, stating, “I intended to stand up for the rights of women of all races, sexual orientations, and identified genders.”

Of the three MBA boys, two asked to remain anonymous. Of the trio, J. P. Cooper was the only one to attend a march. He stated, “It [was] a way to defend the rights of all people of different races and genders.”

The two other MBA students shared how their outside perspective looks. MBA Student 2 touched on the occasional riotous nature of some of the recent manifestations: “I think the ‘Not My President’ trend, as well as rejecting the president upfront before he is able to make any decisions, is an immature approach to the protests. People will say, ‘Love trumps hate,’ and then proceed to hate him back. This is what I like to call

the ‘fire with fire’ approach, making you no better than what you’re attempting to combat.”

MBA Student 2 proceeded to applaud the marches, their having pushed for societal change in a less aggressive manner: “I think protestors should instead use the protest to point out race, sex, or sexual orientation issues in our society that we still have--wage gap, racial profiling, etc.--instead of simply using the protest to say, ‘Wow! My presidential candidate didn’t win. I’m going to complain about this [situation].’”

MBA Student 3, on the other hand, commended the bravery of the marchers, saying, “I think that those people are very brave for standing against a flaw in society and making their voices heard. Feminism is a tricky topic for some people.”

Both MBA Students 2 and 3 retrospectively wished that they could have partaken in a march or manifestation.

One point of confusion that sometimes arises with such marches is the differing of purpose and meaning from person to person. Students and faculty alike had a lot to say about the multifaceted nature of the marches.

MBA’s Annie B Williams discussed the several different sentiments being shared at the march here in Nashville: “For some, it was about immigrants’ rights—college students here lawfully now worried that they will be sent to a country they have never called home, families scared of being split up. For some, it was about improving public transportation so that they could make a living for their families and get their kids to school. For some, it was about Planned Parenthood. For some, it was about nothing more than love and respect for all people. For some, it was simply a rejection of hate.”

Ms. Williams also touched on what she believed the marches nationwide were looking to commemorate: “I think the marches intended to send a message to national and international leaders, particularly President Trump,

that disrespect and exclusion, and the targeting and suppression of individuals based on differences—gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, ethnicity—is unacceptable to a large portion of the United States, and that we are not willing to go backwards. We intend to work towards a more compassionate, accepting, open society. We intend to work towards the ideals of Dr. King’s ‘Beloved Community.’”

Dr. Lech shared his view on the matter: “This highly populated event was like Rorschach test. There were so many disparate groups and interests represented throughout the nationwide protests (several of which were diametrically opposed philosophically), one could find almost any viewpoint in that mix they wanted to. Ultimately, it seemed to predominantly serve as a celebration of sisterhood against a newly elected president who often went out of his way to malign woman and also boast about sexually assaulting them.”

When asked about whether he felt the marches had components of exclusivity, Dr. Lech had a clear message: “I would say: Go to a rally that you believe in. If you can’t find one, create it.”

Faculty and students alike talked about how other movements with similar goals have affected their lives and world view. Echoing Mrs. Williams’s comment about Dr. King’s “Beloved Community,” some students and faculty touched on the Black Lives Matter movement.

MBA Student 3 said, “The BLM has helped me see how inequality is all around us even today, and the only way to make our voices heard is to gather together and stand together.”

Referring to the sacrifice that protestors make to make their message known, Dr. Lech shared, “Time is precious; it’s the currency through which you measure your life. Moreover, the inconvenience and monetary expenses associated with attending protests and marches run high. When they arrive at the destinations, protestors brave the elements, face possible arrest or physical harm, and withstand a deluge of derision from people who happen to disagree with them. When people do this, particularly in the masses

we’ve seen recent years for the Tea Party, BLM protests, or the Women’s march, I would encourage you to take notice and learn why they levied this level of personal investment in their cause.”

Lizzy Asad looked to other movements, such as Muslim acceptance. She noted the necessity of diversity in the United States, saying, “I believe that all humans are equal. Therefore, I am a large proponent of America accepting refugees, including Muslims. I think that religion has no place in our government. Banning people from our country because of their religion goes against what America stands for. Diversity is what makes this country the best in the world.”

Ultimately, such marches are a great opportunity for one to discover the pains and struggles of others. While each individual will face different forms of prejudice, hatred, or struggle during his or her lifetime, she or he can grow to understand the circumstances of others in the community. This is the embodiment of empathy.

“What I realized is that the march was not just about women,” said Ms. Williams. “It was about the right not to live in fear because you are a woman or a Muslim or African-American or poor or in some other way a minority, period. It was about the right to live a productive life free from interference from the government, with the protection of the government. There were women and men of every color and ethnicity and religion and socioeconomic bracket. It was peaceful and loving and accepting and educational and hopeful.”

P.S. If you’d like to learn more about the stories or thoughts of the people that participated in this article, email me (isaac.wills18@montgomerybell.edu) or any of those named in the article directly.

WOMEN’S MARCH: On the weekend of the 2017 Presidential Inauguration, thousands of women across the country and around the world showed up to march for their collective rights in an atmosphere of hope and encouragement. (Photo: Karen Hayes of Parnassus Books)



Stock Market Soars and Sinks

By Matt Kaplan
Staff UPenn Legacy

The year 2016 is now regarded by many as terrible, rotten, and luckily behind us. Of course, those who think of 2016 as such may have some reason. Whether it be the Syrian refugee crisis, the outbreak of the Zika virus, or the hottest temperatures on record in history, there is plenty to complain about.

However, our media has a tendency only to focus on the bad things happening worldwide. What many don't consider is that the American economy reached an all-time high in the final quarter of last year. After a slow start to the economy to start 2016, the stock market picked up and inevitably rose tremendously throughout the year.

The year 2017 may be different, though. Under a new presidency, and at the dawn of a new era for the digital world, things should start to change from the 21st-century market we've become accustomed to. In this new economy, there are several things we should consider. Specifically, we should consider rising trends for the new year.

One huge industry that seems to keep

growing is gaming. For example, gaming powerhouse, Electronic Arts (EA), which once was making games for the semi-popular Nintendo 64, now has games varying from the official sports games for the NFL, NHL, and FIFA, to other games, such as the popular Battlefield series. Every year, these games, which are just an example from one company, get more and more sophisticated, more and more popular. The video game industry now includes video game centers, where people just play video games in a room for days. People have actually died from dehydration and starvation, from their obsession in these games. While this might seem surprising, it only goes to prove the demand for more games in the future. Further, with the new use of virtual reality, people can literally be in their game entirely, with their actual movements affecting the game, making the rise of this industry even more explosive.

Another area to look at in the digital age is cybersecurity. Yes, we all know about the Russian hacks of the DNC, and maybe or maybe not of Donald Trump. Who knows anymore? Regardless of the true amount of



BULL AND BEAR: The trends and vagaries of the stock market may have been neglected by many in favor of close observation of current American political events.

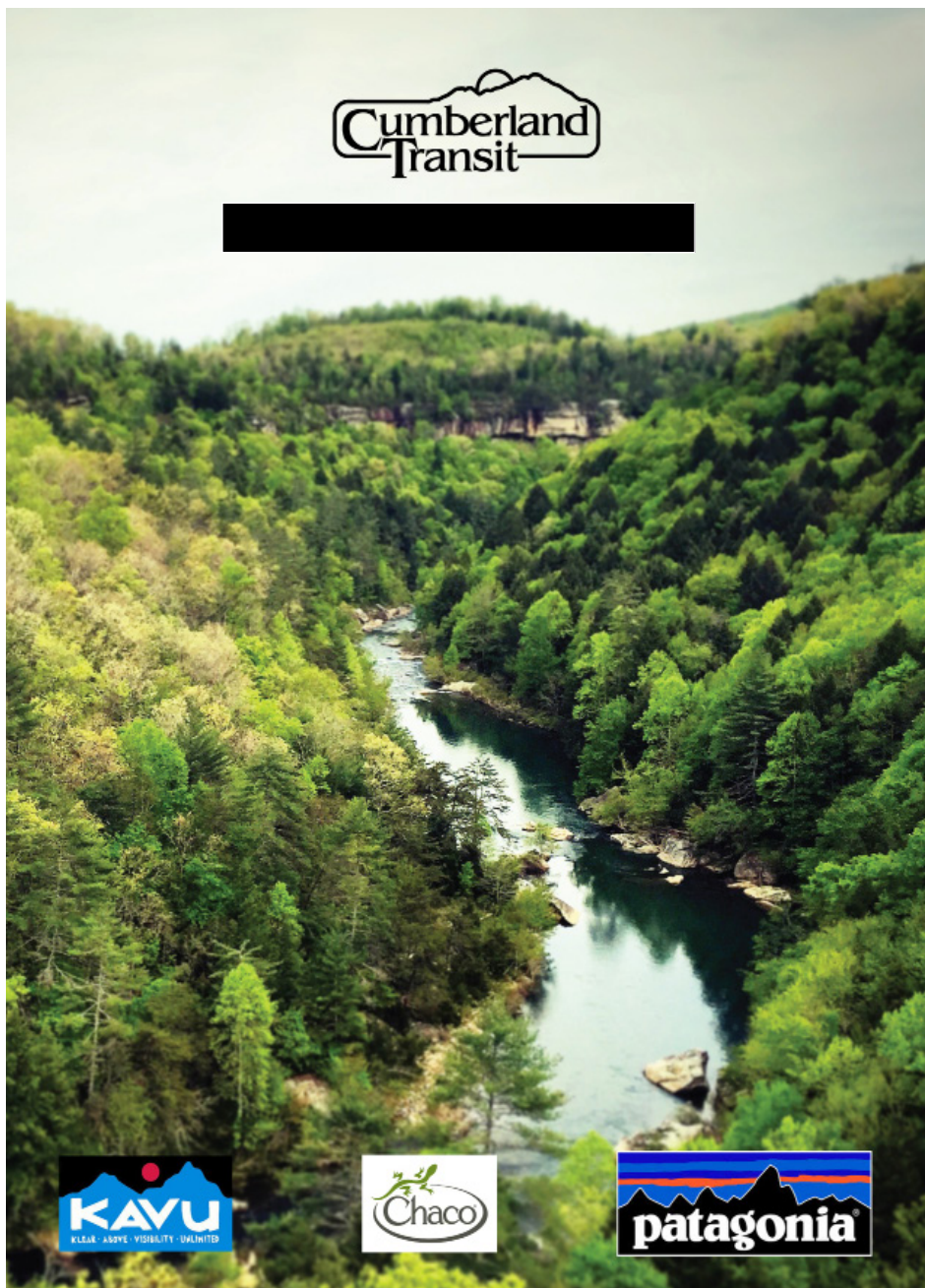
hacking involved in last year's strange election, its presence was legitimate enough to raise awareness. In reality, these hacks are only just a prelude to the amount of cyber attacks we see and will see. China sends cyber attacks our way on the day. Everyone, everywhere, is now subject to credit card fraud, or worse, identity fraud. Nothing seems secure in this digital world. That's where cybersecurity comes in because there are companies whose sole purposes are to prevent these hacks and keep your information secure. These companies will be needed more and more in 2017 and beyond, so consider this entire industry as "on the rise" because it isn't only the government that needs cybersecurity, it's all of us, using private companies to protect against hacks. The publicity it received in this year's election should start a movement towards more security, which could play out favorably for many companies involved in cyber protection. Look for many of these companies, such as IBM, Palo Alto Networks, and root9B, to do quite well in 2017.

Let's talk about Mexico. For starters, there will likely be no wall. Trump has already postponed the plans for 2 years and said that Mexico will reimburse us later. Neither will happen. Further, NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement), which allows for easy trade between us and Mexico, tremendously helping Mexico's economy, will probably not be ripped to shreds, like our president promised. Truthfully, it doesn't really matter right now if either of those things happen. What's important is that Mexico fears that they might. The Mexican peso is way down on the dollar right now, meaning that everything in Mexico is cheaper than it has been. Now might be a good time to invest in some ETFs in Mexico. ETFs are groups of stocks

from different companies that you can buy as one. So, if you bought an ETF from Mexico, you would be purchasing a little stock from some of Mexico's biggest companies. Because of the way the peso is right now, "buy low sell high" would apply here, as these stocks are cheaper than they often have been. It is my belief that Trump will not be as harsh on Mexico as he said he would be when he was a candidate. Thus, when this plays out, Mexican stocks will rise back to where they were before Trump's harsh criticism. In fact, Mexican stocks could rise above where they were before, primarily because of tourism. Tourism is cheaper than usual right now, meaning that more people will actually go to their vacation beaches there than usual. If Trump builds a wall and keeps his promises, then ignore this consideration, but there is definitely some potential here.

At length, the market could go both ways in 2017. While Donald Trump preaches "buy American, hire American," economists have proved that over the course of many years, free trade benefits our economy. Globalization is the more effective way for growing our country's wealth. When things can be produced at a cheaper price in China, that's the smart move for a company to make, and that's what will help make our economy more efficient. Of course, globalization leaves people out, which gives Trump a fair reason to want to buy and hire only American. Our economy could struggle if our trade deals are renegotiated, and tariffs are put on goods coming from outside the country. Overall, expect an interesting year in the digital age, and always look for trends that may be on the rise.

Cumberland
Transit



First Folio Comes to Nashville via MBA

By Harrison Kidd
Staff Thespian

The arrival of Shakespeare's First Folio in Nashville marks a momentous achievement for Nashville and provides further evidence of the city's tourist and economic growth. The First Folio is the product of two of Shakespeare's fellow actors who compiled 36 of his plays into this one book, the first collected edition of Shakespeare's plays. The First Folio, which was housed in the Parthenon, was on loan from the Shakespeare Folger Library in Washington, D.C., whose collection of 82 First Folios is the largest in the world.

The First Folio exhibit toured all 50 states plus Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. during 2016 in remembrance of Shakespeare's death 400 years ago. Mr. Gioia and MBA's Theater Department helped to ensure that the First Folio landed in Nashville when the state's cities had the opportunity to bid for the priceless collection. With the arrival of the Folio, MBA celebrated the occasion by having a "Year of Shakespeare."

Just in case you've been under a rock since the beginning of the 2016-17 year, or you are an exchange student eager to learn more, here's everything MBA has done to celebrate its "Year of Shakespeare": First, throughout the year, MBA's plays have been either by Shakespeare, inspired by Shakespeare, or penned by a contemporary of Shakespeare's. The season began with a bang as Dr. Fuller directed *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, a 50s/60s-style Shakespeare-inspired musical taking

place in the future, stylistically similar to *Star Wars*. Next, Mr. Morrison directed a spectacular contemporary of Shakespeare's, Ben Jonson's, *Volpone*, a biting satire with an anti-hero as the main character. The play even had a teaser at the Parthenon, where the Folio was located, ending with a Q & A. The play premiered in November to great success.

In between *Return* and *Volpone*, several other Shakespeare events took place inside and outside of MBA. MBA hosted a city-wide Shakespeare dinner, open to parents and the other people of Nashville, where the school orchestra performed, as well as Juniors J. P. Cooper, Harrison Kidd, and senior Amber Steigelfest from Harpeth Hall, who performed sonnets and monologues from Shakespeare. The Thespian Society paid another visit to the Parthenon before *Volpone*'s performance, this time for Shakespeare improv (Shakesprov). A beautiful team of Jack Capizzi, Andrew Falls, Bradford Holladay, Matthew Kaplan, and others played several theater games and did improv exercises in front of an audience in the Folio's exhibit.



GOOD MORNING TO THE DAY: (Left to right to below) Andrew Falls '18, J.P. Cooper '18, Amber Steigelfest HH '17, Jack Capizzi '18, Mr. Malcolm Morrison, and Harrison Kidd '18 after performing a scene from Ben Jonson's *Volpone* at the Parthenon.

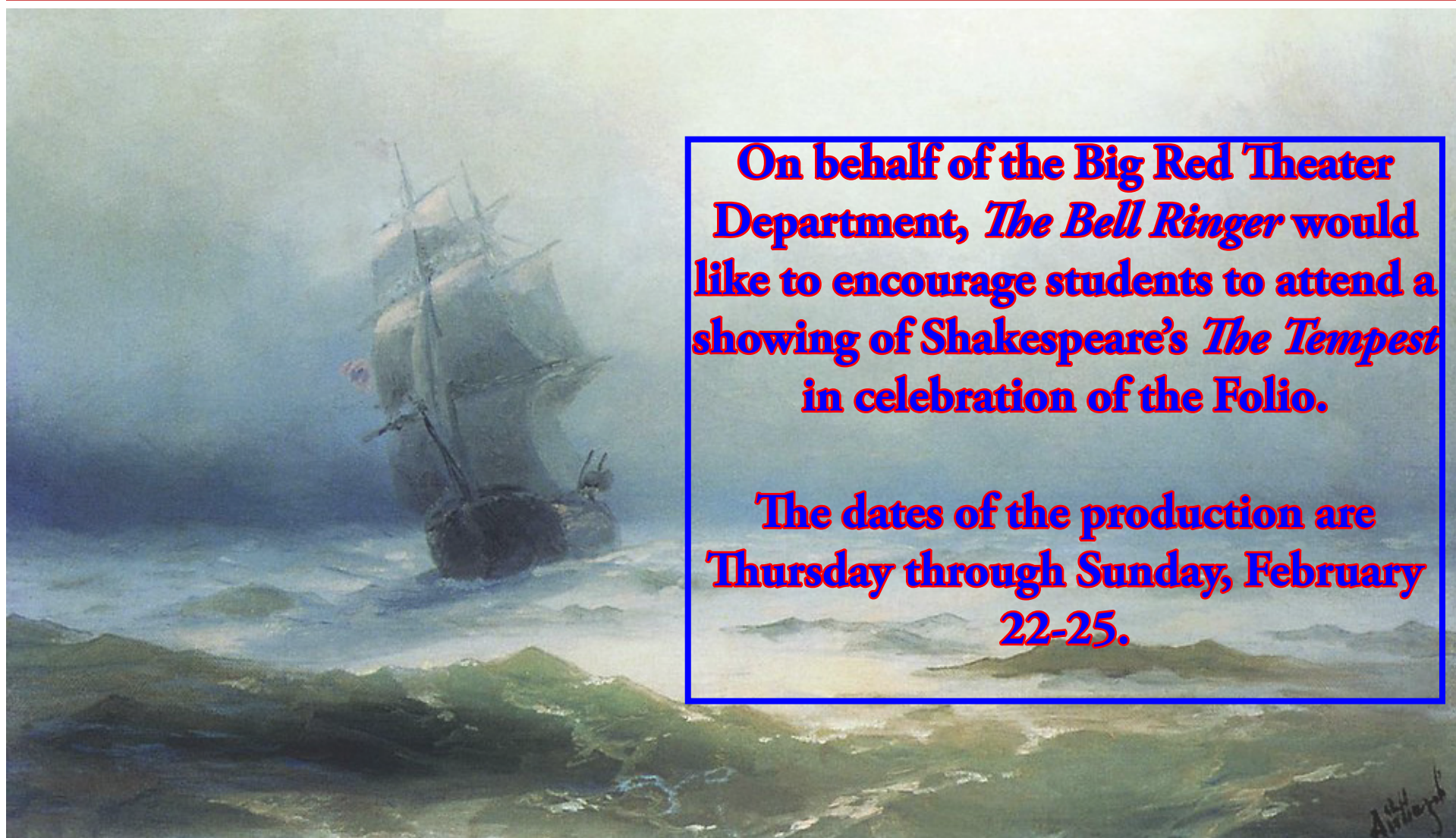
After *Volpone*, the Studio Theater class, along with Capizzi, went back to the Parthenon once again, to act out an abridged *Hamlet* and for Capizzi to perform a monologue out of Christopher Durang's *An Actor's Nightmare*. The Junior School show, *The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet*, also visited the Parthenon for a teaser before its debut.

Rehearsal for Shakespeare's *The Tempest* is currently going on at MBA

and will close the year of Shakespeare with its performances on Thursday, February 23 (6:30), Friday, February 24 (6:30), Saturday, February 25 (7:00), and Sunday, February 26 (2:00).

On behalf of the Big Red Theater Department, *The Bell Ringer* would like to encourage students to attend a showing of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* in celebration of the Folio.

The dates of the production are Thursday through Sunday, February 22-25.



Glover Responds to Trump's Travel Ban



John Glover
Opinions
Editor

On January 27—just one week after Inauguration Day—President

Trump issued a vehemently controversial executive order on immigration, of which the effects are three-fold.

First, travelers from seven majority-Muslim countries are prevented entry to the U.S. for an intermittent period of 90 days.

Second, the government's refugee resettlement program is suspended for 120 days, pending an internal review of the Department of Homeland Security's vetting process.

Third, within that moratorium refugees from Syria are banned indefinitely, and refugees representing "religious-minorities"—i.e. non-Muslims—will be given precedence in the future.

Since its signing, this move has been met with ardent opposition in the courts with lawsuits and on the streets in protests.

So far, while no Constitutional

court has been sympathetic to the Department of Justice's case in defense of this executive order, its most significant setback has come in the form of a restraining order against it signed by Judge James Robart of Seattle. Ruling against the DOJ's claim that the executive branch should be afforded "broad discretion in matters relating to national security," Robart determined that the order was unconstitutional because "it is unsupported with fact and obviously was not researched or vetted." In other words, the current number of terrorist attacks perpetrated on U.S. soil by foreign nationals hailing from any one of the seven countries listed in President Trump's travel ban sits squarely at zero. Therefore, the ban has no rational basis and does not measure up under Constitutional scrutiny. Truly, the era of "alternative facts"—still in its infancy—has been dealt a mortal blow by this ruling.

So, the lower courts have put a halt to the new president's surprise move, but, still, protesters are lining the streets in cities across the country and around the world. It's only been a few weeks since President Trump assumed office; in that short time, he has inspired

some of the largest scale protests in American history. In response to his inauguration, upwards of three million people took to the streets to protest in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Dallas, and even here in Nashville.

Off the bat, Trump is the least popular sitting U.S. president in recent history, and he's hardly even begun. Considering all of this unrest, then, it's hardly a surprise that a perceived ban on Muslims would spark so much outrage, but, still, the measure of it is hard to believe.

In the days following the announcement, the backlash was immediate and overwhelming. Silicon Valley tech giants (including Apple, Facebook, Microsoft, Google, Uber and Intel) filed suit in court, meaning some of the biggest and most influential companies in the world consider Trump's travel ban to a tangible threat to their businesses. Around the world, protests erupted not just in the U.S. but also in Hong Kong, London, Paris, and Berlin. Member's of the president's own party Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) expressed concern that the order might pose a national security threat. Their joint statement

read: "This executive order sends a signal, intended or not, that America does not want Muslims coming into our country. That is why we fear this executive order may do more to help terrorist recruitment than improve our security."

Supporters of the president—outnumbered though they are—have continually accused his opponents of overreacting. In one particularly controversial statement, President Trump "tweeted" in response to Judge Robart's ruling: "The judge opens our country to potential terrorists and others that do not have our best interests at heart. Bad people are very happy!" It's not difficult to see how this attitude is troubling. The president would have the country sacrifice its values of religious tolerance and rational thinking to protect against threats that he hasn't even identified. In the words of the judge who the president is so superciliously slandering, the problem is that the executive order "[identifies] only speculative harms."

The White House is engaging in overt fear mongering-- and a poor form of it at that.



The guest at this year's Father-Son dinner will be Ed Davis (right), Boston Police Commissioner during the 2013 Marathon bombings, portrayed by John Goodman in the film Patriots Day.

This year's Father-Son dinner will take place on March 14 at 6:00 P.M.



THE BELL RINGER

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Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to the *Bell Ringer* office in the Lowry Building, the Faculty Advisors or the Editors, or sent to bellringer@montgomerybell.edu (simply type 'Bell Ringer' into the school email). These letters must be signed; *The Bell Ringer* neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

The staff of *The Bell Ringer* prepares all copy at Montgomery Bell Academy. Tennessean/Gannett in Nashville, Tennessee, prints the paper.

The Big 150

As MBA nears the culmination of its 150th year, the staff of The Bell Ringer would like to draw the attention of the studentry a few key moments from MBA's history.

1867: Montgomery Bell Academy opens its doors.

1915: Montgomery Bell Academy moves to its current location on Harding Road.

1943: Headmaster Isaac Ball completes his 32-year tenure, the longest of any MBA headmaster then or since.

1976: John Lanier and Beatie O'Connell begin teaching at Montgomery Bell Academy.

1994: Brad Gioia takes over the post of Headmaster.

2013: Construction is completed on the current dining hall.

2014: Montgomery Bell Academy defeats Ensworth High School in the TSSAA Division-II State Championship in football.

2017: Ben Coulthard and Jack Capizzi outshine their senior counterparts of The Bell Ringer.

YOU!

Do you have any experience with web design? Or, even better, are you interested in getting involved with the production of a website?

We need your creative input and unique perspectives to make *The Bell Ringer* the best it can be.

Contact Peter Taylor or Hamilton Garber if interested.



Mr. Frederick Fires Up Music Department

By Landis Hall
Staff Raconteur

LH: What attracted you to MBA that was different from other schools?

JF: A couple things. Probably the history and tradition of the school. I grew up in Nashville, and MBA was always a part of the community that was really well regarded. So, the reputation of the school. Also the quality of the music program. When I interviewed, what I saw was this incredible quality that I knew I wanted to take part of. And the proximity. It's in a great part of Nashville, and I live very close to MBA, so it's part of my community of where I live. It's pretty much the best of all worlds for me.

LH: Did you teach anywhere before MBA?

JF: I taught at HG Hill Middle School, which is a Metro public middle school with grades 5-8. I taught band there. It's actually just down the street.

LH: How is that different from MBA?

JF: There were a lot more kids. I had about 50 students on average in each class, so the class sizes were way larger. I would say I had less resources.

I wasn't teaching with anyone else. I taught those students by myself.

LH: Do you coach any sports?

JF: Not yet, I think I'm supposed to be doing spring intermurals. Not exactly sure what that means just yet, but I think I'm just supervising those intermurals.

LH: What changes are you bringing to the music program?

JF: I think just a bit more energy. I think since I'm younger than Ms. Pippin and I work well together. I feel like I'm pretty high energy. And also just some knowledge of what I've gone through since I've been in a couple rock bands, and I feel like I know music theory pretty well.



Mr. Carlini picks up the reins of Big Red Biology

By Matthew Kaplan
Staff Raconteur

MK: Where did you grow up?

MC: I grew up in Alexandria, Virginia just five minutes away from George Washington's Mount Vernon.

MK: What college did you attend?

MC: I originally attended Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina.

MK: How did you find out about MBA?

MC: I found out about MBA from my cousin, whose best friend at Vanderbilt had attended MBA. Having taught and attended at an all boys boarding school, I thought it would be the perfect fit. I especially liked that MBA stressed that students should be well rounded.

MK: What other biology experience do you have?

MC: My experience in biology include being a teaching assistant for several biology courses during college. In addition, I conducted independent research on freshwater

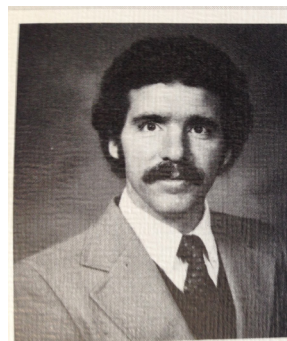
mussels to see if they would be effective at alleviating harmful algal blooms. I participated in the collection of data on shearwater and tropicbird populations in the Bahamas.

MK: What has surprised you most about MBA so far?

MC: The aspect of MBA that has surprised me the most is the culture around football at the school. I have never seen as much school spirit at a school than I have seen at MBA.

MK: If you couldn't teach in the science department, what department would you teach in, and specifically what course?

MC: If I couldn't teach in the science department I would choose to teach in the history department. In particular I would want to teach AP Comparative Government and Politics. The topic of government and politics intrigues me, especially the process that people go through to formulate their opinions on political issues.



Mr. Dan Herring: Modern History, Modern History (AP), Ancient and Medieval History; Freshman Class Advisor; Microbe Football; B.A., Carson-Newman College, M.A., University of Tennessee



Mr. Robert K. Pruitt: Biology, Chem-Phys; Freshman Class Sponsor; Ass't Varsity Cross Country and Track Coach; B.A., Vanderbilt University; M.S., Tennessee State University

Some of our favorite MBA teachers...

Dr. Onstott Overwhelms Students with English



*John Ralston
Graham
Staff Raconteur*

It's been a long road to teaching English at MBA for Dr. Onstott.

He excelled in his English classes in college, yet after his undergraduate studies, he still did not know what particular career he might pursue. He was completely undecided while going through college. However, he thought when he entered that he probably wanted to major in Political Sciences, but he ended up enjoying all of his English classes so much more. He decided to get his masters

degree, which allowed him to get his feet wet with teaching. By the time he fully committed to earning his PHD, he was well familiar with the classroom, and decided to dedicate himself to the profession. "I sort of fell into it," said Onstott. "It was a roundabout path to teaching."

Living north of Nashville in Springfield, he was led to MBA in another sort of roundabout way. He wanted to stay in this area, but there were no college teaching jobs available. So he began to do research on private high-schools. After seeing an opening and realizing that MBA would be a good fit for him, he decided to pursue the job.

Dr. Onstott said he expected most of the different aspects of MBA life, but he was surprised by how busy the MBA day is. He also added that he did not think his work would have the sort of variety it has.

Having taught at the college level before MBA, Dr. Onstott teaches his classes similar to the way he approached undergraduate instruction, though now he must balance the composition and literature sides of

English, which are taken separately in college.

Dr. Onstott also serves as one of the crew head coaches, and he has already been to multiple competitions with the team. He is also excited to become more involved with the photography club, the hockey team, and even Endada. In the future, he would like to become involved in the future some of the many writing clubs, as well as the guitar club and the songwriting club.

The MBA community is relatively small compared to the places he has taught before, said Onstott, which makes it special. He appreciates that everyone knows each other, making each discussion all the more meaningful.



Ms. Hackney brings international experience to language instruction

*By John Thornton
Staff Raconteur*

On Thursday, November 3, John Thornton had the opportunity to speak with Ms. Hackney, a young woman who previously lived in Spain and is now a Spanish teacher at MBA. She attended Agnes Scott College and received a master's degree at Universidad de Alcalá de Henares. Thornton asked her a few questions about her personal background, her new job at MBA, and her outside interests.

JT: Where and when did you originally start speaking Spanish?

CH: I started as a child in school and at home.

JT: Did you have any other career interests before deciding to become a teacher?

CH: I always wanted to be a teacher.

JT: What led you to Nashville and MBA specifically?

CH: Kind of by luck, really. I applied through a company that was a placement service, and they asked me

what place I would be interested in. I said I'd give Tennessee a try and ended up at MBA.

JT: What has surprised you the most about your job?

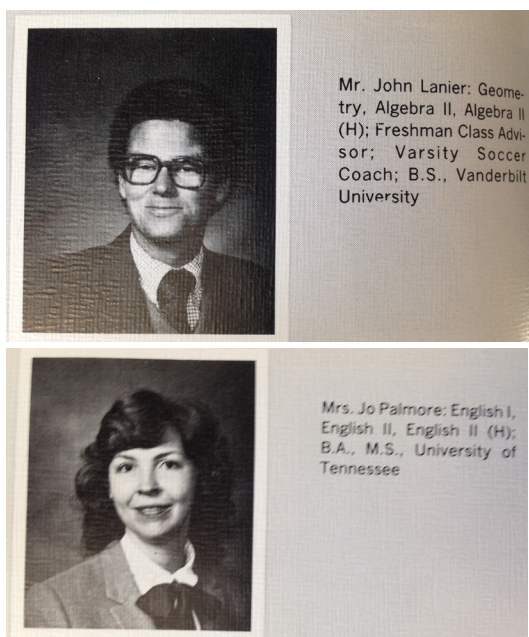
CH: I was surprised by how much the boys like stickers!

JT: What unique skills or experiences do you hope to bring to your class?

CH: I hope to bring my experience of living abroad, especially for those interested in the language grants, because I can provide a unique perspective. I hope I can bring knowledge about everyday life in Spain to help them better connect with the culture.

JT: How long do you plan to stay at MBA? Do you hope to pursue anything besides teaching in the future?

CH: I think I'd like to stay as long as they'll have me. I would like to pursue another degree. I have a masters overseas, but I'd like to pursue a masters in America and a PhD.



... courtesy of a 1984 yearbook.



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SCOTT PORTIS, CLASS OF '84
MCCLAIN PORTIS, CLASS OF '18

Man Behind the Pizza: *The Bell Ringer* Chats with Martin Vermillion

By John Fioravanti
Features Editor

Martin Vermillion, age 55, is a chef at Montgomery Bell Academy employed by SAGE Dining Services. He runs the snack bar and pizza bar, and he makes every pizza and bags every snack personally.

Martin grew up with a younger sister who is now married with two kids. His mother was a stay-at-home mom who spent a number of years working in a grocery store, while his father, after serving in the military, worked in the computer business. Because of his father's work, the Vermillion family moved often. Martin went to schools in New Jersey, Arizona, and even a private school in Italy. After a childhood scattered around the country, he attended Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, Massachusetts. This was the first time Vermillion was enrolled for four consecutive years.

Martin then attended the University of New Hampshire. He majored in English and actively participated in hockey and skiing. Martin also loved to sail.

After receiving his undergraduate degree, Vermillion found a job with **MACARONI PIZZA**: *Despite the frequent cries of "No way, there's pizza for lunch today," the pizza bar and concomitant oven have become staples of the MBA dining experience that no one would like to see disappear anytime soon.*



AT&T. He worked

with AT&T for 16 years and planned to stay retirement; however, they shut down the plant.

Aside from kitchen work and AT&T, Vermillion has also drilled water wells in New Hampshire and refinished sail boats in the dead of the Northeastern winter.

Vermillion was a biking enthusiast for many years. After years of riding in the Northeast, he decided to sell his bikes, and in return for the bikes, Vermillion had enough money to travel to the Caribbean.

Martin lived in Trinidad for almost two years and traveled to a number of countries, including Belize. As long as he had money in a bank or a returning airline ticket, he was allowed to stay.

At the time, countries like Belize were undeveloped and untamed. "I was pretty well off beach bum," Martin reminisces. "I had the whole country to myself. You could just walk into Mexico."

In 2002, Martin began to work as a chef in order to continue his travels. It was during this time in the Caribbean that Martin met his wife, and at age 46, he married. The couple planned to be married on a boat by a captain, but it started to rain. So they were married

in front of their favorite restaurant and the location of their reception, The Green Parrot.

"There were six people all together at my wedding and a captain of a boat," Martin jokes, "and the Red Elvies were playing our reception."

After marriage, Vermillion and his wife moved in order to find work. Because there was none in Key West Florida, they settled in Nashville, where his wife grew up. Vermillion was soon employed at MBA by SAGE.

Martin arrives at MBA by 5:30 a.m. every morning to make pizzas, each pizza made from scratch. MBA goes through about 60 pizzas a day. It's a lot of work, so Martin often uses unusual ingredients to mix it up for himself and the MBA community.

"I look for anything I can put on a pizza," says Vermillion. "As much creativity as possible. I have total free reign over what I put on pizza." The only forbidden ingredient? Broccoli.

In addition to prep work in the morning, Vermillion runs the snack bar throughout the day. He prepares and bags every snack available, then works the bar during break and after school. Heading the snackbar and pizzabar used to be two separate jobs, but Vermillion has picked up both them. Needless to say, when he arrives home in Donelson at about 5:00 p.m., he usually collapses. He often makes dinner and watches a little TV, but he is usually in bed by 8:00 p.m. in order to wake up and begin the process again at 4:00 a.m.

Martin's passions for sailing, hockey,



UNsung HERO OF THE HILL: Features Editor John Fioravanti with Martin Vermillion, mastermind behind the MBA pizza bar and manager of the beloved snack bar.

and biking have now turned into new passions for work, cooking, and socializing with family and friends. Ironically, Vermillion enjoys to cook when he gets home after a long day in the MBA cafeteria. His life is "a much simpler existence."

As for future plans, Vermillion hopes to transition out of the kitchen. In fact, he has plans to start a trucking company and is currently in school to get his license. To do so, he's planning to drive for five to ten years. "To cover the bases," he says. Then he wants to retire and settle someplace warm. He would love to go back to the Caribbean, but he and his wife will probably end up in Florida.

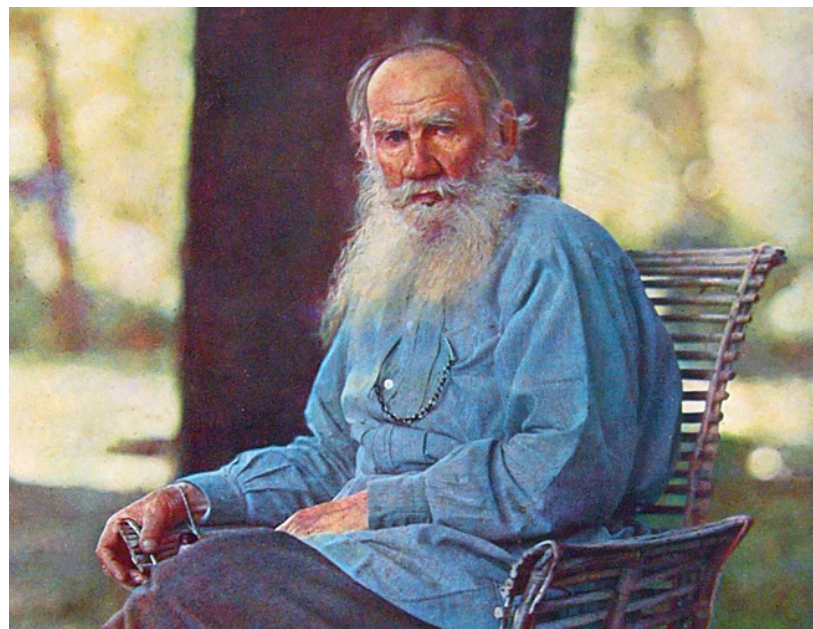
"I know Florida's gonna sink," Martin says. "The ocean's gonna rise, and it's all gonna wash away, but it won't happen tomorrow. Hopefully that's where I'll be sooner or later."

**Do you feel like you have something to say?
Are you skilled or knowledgeable about something interesting or
undercovered?**

Are you looking to pad your resumé to get into college.

Then write for *The Bell Ringer*!

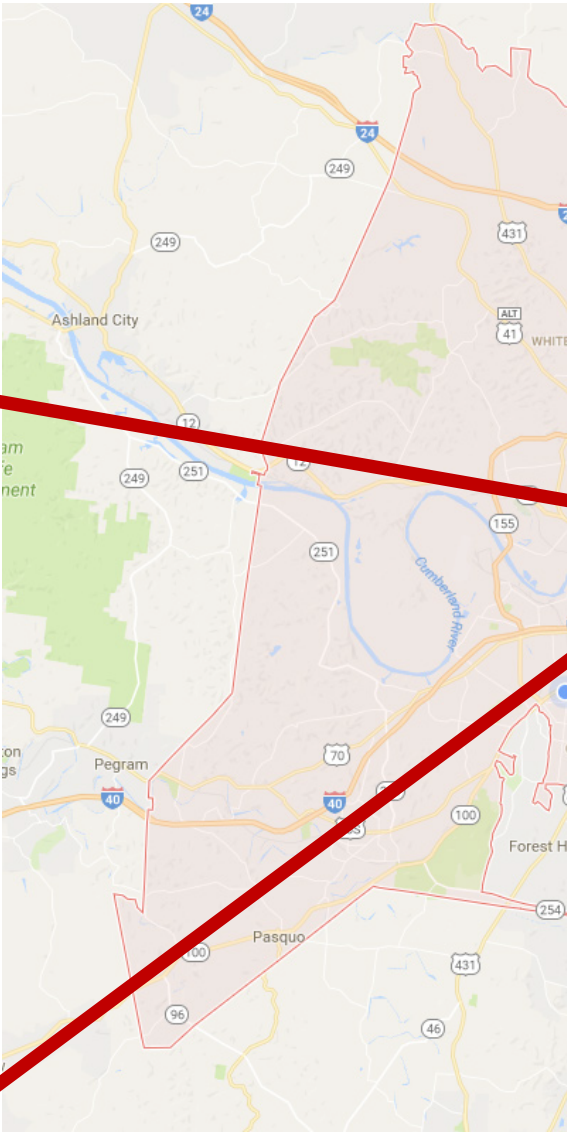
Don't be like poor Leo Tolstoy on the right, who had nothing to do after working on *Anna Karenina* and *War and Peace*. Instead, fill your extra time by meaningfully contributing to a robust school publication instead of just sitting on a park bench full of creative angst.



Burn Baby Burn! A Walk through

Bolton’s Spicy Chicken and Fish

We began our journey in East Nashville at Bolton’s Hot Chicken and Fish. We went to the original location, once only a small shack with two or three tables, with everyone in the restaurant crammed together. The restaurant has since upgraded to a larger space just behind its original building. Upon entering, the restaurant had a true dive-joint feel, especially given the walk-up window. We ordered a fried chicken breast and a fried catfish fillet for our entrees alongside mac and cheese and green beans as sides. For spice level, we settled on middle, with medium for the entrees, to experience the heat of the chicken without overwhelming ourselves. The chicken was slightly dry, but we went with the white meat, so dryness could have been expected. The catfish also seemed like it was not caught fresh, but pre-packaged. Regardless, each meat was quite good. The spice was not as overpowering as we had expected, yet still strong after each bite. We were actually able to make it through our meal without drinks, which surprised us. The sides were similar to the entrees--solid, but nothing that jumped out at us. The mac and cheese was peppery and cheesy, and the green beans well seasoned with a vinegar base. Overall, Bolton’s was a solid meal we would recommend because of the down-to-earth atmosphere and the ability to say you had the hot chicken from one of the more noteworthy stars in Nashville’s hot chicken galaxy. **Overall: 7 stars out of 10 for the meal, 5.0 chilies out of 10 for the spice level of the chicken**



CONNOISSEURS: Trace Fontana and Mr. Clark, resident faculty experts on Nashville’s most discussed restaurant

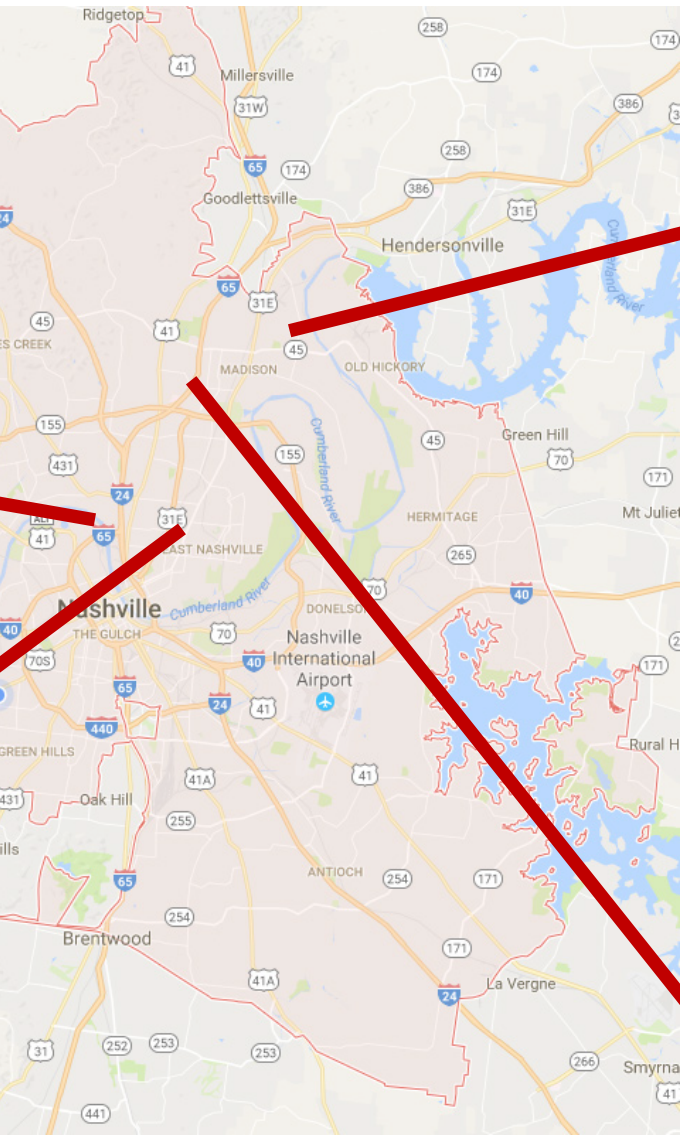
Pepperfire

After Bolton’s, we made the short trek up Main Street in East Nashville to Pepperfire Hot Chicken. Pepperfire had the vibe of a trendy new restaurant trying to give its take on hot chicken. Upon entering, we were surrounded by light bulbs hanging low, suspended by cords, as well as art prints depicting the main entree and its state of origin. We settled on the three chicken tenders, with sides of fried okra and collard greens. After beginning our journey with the tame spice level at Bolton’s, we upped the ante and went with the “Hot: Painful for most” level, the third spiciest offered by Pepperfire. We received our food quickly, and each one of us dug in. After my first bite, I thought I was doing fine, but then the spices hit the back of my throat, and I legitimately thought I was going to pass out. It felt spicy just for the sake of being spicy. There were strong overtones of an herb-like seasoning, along with tastes of chili and cumin making up the bulk of the breading. It also didn’t help that the temperature of the chicken was hot as well. It took multiple bites to finish each small piece. I found myself blowing on the chicken towards the end in futile attempts to cool the spice down, realizing it would be hot regardless. We inadvertently parked ourselves next to the drink station, which was a blessing in disguise as it made for quick, easy access to water to cool our taste buds. After finishing the chicken, we went for sides. The fried okra was very good, well breaded, and had a good taste. **Overall: 8.5 stars out of 10 for the meal, 8.0 chilies for the spice level of the chicken**



h Nashville’s Hot Chicken Scene

or Ben Coulthard and fellow juniors Trace
g deeper into the legend of Nashville’s hot
teworthy joints in and around town.



‘18, Ben Coulthard ‘18, Jack Sullivan ‘18,
ert in hot chicken, took a visit to four of
ants to compare their quality side by side.



Slow Burn

We then traveled up to Madison to meet Mr. Clark, MBA’s resident faculty hot chicken connoisseur, at one of his favorite hot chicken joints, Slow Burn. The difference between Slow Burn and all other hot chicken restaurants is the vast variety in the menu. Chicken is in their name, but they also have fish, seafood, BBQ, and waffles (which would come to be our favorite part of the trip). We kept it simple, each ordering two tenders along with a waffle. Mr. Clark also added some hot chicken egg rolls to complete the order. Jack and I went with sweet potato and brownie waffle flavors respectively, and also ordered the Singe (medium) and Scorch (Hot) spice levels for our chicken. The hot chicken egg rolls were first to be sampled, giving us a unique twist on the hot chicken. You could definitely feel the hot chicken, but some of the spice was mitigated by the outer shell and the other contents of the egg roll. The first few bites were seemingly harmless, but true to the restaurant’s name, it had a slow burn. I was probably a quarter of the way done with my Singe tender when my taste buds truly awoke. It took three trips to the water fountain to quell the flames inside my mouth. I made the mistake of not only finishing my two tenders, but also eating part of Jack’s Scorch tender along with part of Mr. Clark’s Inferno (X-Hot) tender. I decided that my mouth was already numb, so why not go for the whole shebang? Thankfully, I still had a waffle to eat. The sweetness of the waffle, along with the caramel and chocolate syrup toppings, did wonders to make me forget the pain I’d previously suffered. With the hospitality we received from the staff, the variety of the food, and the overall quality, Slow Burn was the best restaurant yet. **Overall: 8.5 stars of 10 for the meal, 9.0 chilies out of 10 for the heat.**



Prince’s Hot Chicken Shack

We saved Prince’s Hot Chicken, argued by many to be the best hot chicken of all, for our last stop of the day. They don’t open until 2 PM on Saturdays, so we decided to get there at 2:15, but once we pulled up, a line of people was stretched to the door, and there was nowhere to park. At that point, having eaten at three different restaurants, we decided to just head on home. Still, my stomach got the better of my mind, and I realized that no Nashville hot chicken article would be complete without a Prince’s review. I traveled back the Tuesday after our Saturday visit to experience Prince’s for the first time. Prince’s is a true “hole in the wall,” not calling attention to itself with any sort of giant sign. If I had not navigated there with phone directions, I definitely would not have been able to find Prince’s on my own. After much deliberation in the ordering line, I went with the medium spice after being talked out of ordering hot by the waitress when I ordered on the phone. Once I bit in for my first bite, I expected to start sweating immediately, as Prince’s is notorious for their heat. Yet I was met instead by a milder spice level than I’d expected. Now don’t get me wrong, this heat level was by my own ordering, and in fact, the mild spice made the meal more enjoyable. With a stronger pepper flavor, seeming to be more of a cayenne base, I was truly able to enjoy the chicken without worrying about where the nearest water fountain was. Prince’s definitely had the highest quality overall chicken, as the breading was nice and crispy and the chicken was juicy. It was the truest piece of fried chicken of all, thereby solidifying the many reviews of others that proclaim Prince’s is the best hot chicken restaurant in Nashville. **Overall: 9.0 stars of 10 for the meal, 7.0 chilies**

Kidd: Big Sean Best of the Year

By Harrison Kidd
Staff Reviewer

“God, I have been doing the same thing in the same place, working the same job for 45 years. You know that. It just flew by. What am I really even doing? God, I know we rarely talk, but every day I wake up I feel like I blew it with my family, with her. These kids around me don’t have no one to look up to.”

Big Sean begins his powerful album with the classic American fear of not loving what you do, of not being good enough, and feeling as if you have wasted your life. Whether it’s focusing too much on drugs, sex, or success, throughout the album, Big Sean reflects on his realization that he has forgotten why he does music: for himself.

I Decided is Big Sean’s return to the world of the music that he loves. A phoenix-like approach to second chances, as the album’s title alludes to, he decides to change the path his life is taking. He executes past and present effortlessly and brilliantly, through skits and his songs throughout the album.

The three songs pre-released before the album’s full debut, “Bounce Back,” “Moves,” and “Halfway off the Balcony” were not random decisions. All three songs gave a taste of the concept he masterfully performs throughout the album—of his past mistakes, his realization of doing things wrong, and his new aura and power after he decides to change, past, present, and future. “Moves” takes place from a shallow “past Sean” perspective, where he’s mostly cocky and telling himself how great he is. “Halfway off the Balcony” presents the moment when Sean realizes his mistakes have consumed him, leading to him being

“halfway off” of the balcony life has given him, or simply consumed by his mistakes and flaws. Finally, in “Bounce Back,” a sleeker, confident but not cocky Sean, reminding himself that no matter what bad things happen, he can bounce back into the world with a vengeance.

The theme of redemption, used throughout, goes with the other prevalent symbols and themes throughout the album: his relationships with women, his friends and his family, not answering calls, questioning life with a certain level of existentialism, a need for therapy, Sean’s imperfect relationship with God, and contemplation of suicide from being caught up on his mistakes.

The album itself is beautiful in terms of its sound, and much more sleek and clean than most bass-boosted, clunky songs in hip hop right now. Part of that has to do with his producers, predominantly the extremely popular Metro Boomin, but also 808 Mafia on many of the tracks. Several of the beats are Kanye West-esque, especially in “Sacrifices” and several others. Additionally, Sean hops on the “Hey Mama,” “Cleanin’ out my Closet,” “Dear Mama” and the single-mother-raising-a-rap-star” trend with “Inspire Me,” on which he attests of his love and recognition of his mother’s hard work in a sweet and thoughtful track.

Interestingly, the sleek vibe extends to the lyrics and sounds throughout the album, as he replaces the classic chopped-and-screwed loud cocking-and-gunshot sound to a silenced shot he uses throughout the album. He uses his infamously amazing flow throughout the album, as he admits in “Light” that “this the flow that got Steph Curry inspired This the flow that got LeBron James



FINALLY FAMOUS: Big Sean, Detroit based hip-hop artist, contemplates his own brilliance.

rewire/ This the flow that got my whole family finna retire.” His ability to string words together coherently and quickly, while at the same time putting his personal clever lyrics, is what makes him such a fan favorite. Another classic characteristic of Big Sean’s lyrical genius is his name-dropping similes. Whether it’s Denzel Washington, Warren Buffet, or Donald Trump, all are mentioned in the album as comparisons to him.

One change to his usual style is Sean’s experimentation with his voice, whether with pitch, speed, or the use of echo and doubling. All four of these experimental uses of voice are use—and work out perfectly—in “Voices in my Head / Stick to the Plan.”

appreciate is the consistency throughout, which is rare for most current albums. The melancholic, empowering vibe in the beats, lyrics, and general sound maintains itself to the end. Sean also brings amazing guests, with Eminem and Migos and vocals from Jeremih, TWENTY88, The-Dream, The Flint Chozen Choir, and Starrah. Though Eminem may be past his prime, he still contributes a great verse, and Migos performs by far my favorite Migos verse in *Sacrifices*.

I Decided is the best album of the year so far (besides maybe *Pink Season* by Pink Guy). As he says near the end of the album, Sean has come a long way since “Marvin and Chardonnay.”



Return of Capizzi's Corner

Entertainment Editor Jack Capizzi reviews some of 2016's most noteworthy films



Moonlight

Moonlight accomplishes the rarely successful task of taking a story full of common narrative pitfalls and turning them into something truly brilliant. Barry Jenkins beautifully depicts the story of a struggling boy in the projects of urban Miami. *Moonlight* easily draws comparison to Richard Linklater's *Boyhood*, as both follow a youthful figure's path to maturity. As *Moonlight*'s protagonist matures, he is depicted as both a teenager and a young man. The thread that weaves through the boy's life is a path of experiences, from seeing the effects of drug abus, to finding out the perils of his sexuality, to his experience with the violence of the gang-ridden streets. *Moonlight* excels

in finding beauty in the dirty streets of the urban landscape. Often portraying the boy's interaction with water, the film uses the reflections of the pool and sea to construct a biblical atmosphere during scenes in which water is featured. *Moonlight* revives a common storyline to create one of the more potent films

Toni Erdman

Toni Erdman is a German film that does something few German films have been known to do, which is to make for great comedy. *Toni Erdman* follows the relationship of an older, divorced father in his plight to stalk his daughter at one of her business conferences in Bucharest. What initially seems to be a simple but humorous tale soon turns into a potent depiction of family relationships and how different members can impose themselves on each other. In scenes where the father intentionally embarrasses the daughter in front of her co-workers, the tension can be easily felt, as though the thoughts running through each individual's head is being broadcasted before them. In the entire 162 minutes, *Toni Erdman* is able to deliver a humorous film while providing an accurate portrayal of family relationships and teaching the viewer a lesson to take away in the end.



The Lobster

The Lobster was one of the surprise films of the year. Depicting Colin Farrell as David, an awkward and out of shape middle-aged man who has recently split up with his wife, the plot follows the happenings of a strange society wherein single people must spend 45 days inside of a sort of rehab facility to find a partner. If they fail, they turn into the animal of their choosing. The only way to prolong your stay at this contorted hotel is to successfully hunt those who have escaped the facility and now live within the woods. What starts as quirky and humorous quickly becomes stressed and disturbing as it follows David's quest to find a partner and get out of the facility. The movie features an array of accurate and original portrayals, which bring clarity to the confusing plot. *The Lobster* gained praise for its unique style, and it is sure to develop a cult following in the future.



Manchester by the Sea

Featuring one of the standout performances of the year from Casey Affleck, *Manchester by the Sea* beautifully delivers a story of loss, grief, family, and reliance, all set in a New England town.

The region is vividly captured, featuring shots of the New England coastline and the ships that sail to and from its ports, mirroring the plot in its relative calmness that periodically surges into violence and anger. The movie is, as Affleck describes, "Horribly, horribly, horribly depressing." As the audience learns more and more about Affleck's character through his relationship with his charismatic but immature nephew, the holes in the narrative begin filling themselves in, ultimately leaving the viewer with a sense of the darkness unfolded upon the peaceful town of Manchester long, long ago.



Going Rogue: Newest Star Wars Story Hits Theaters

By Landis Hall
Staff Jedi

A small group of Rebel spies (Felicity Jones, Diego Luna, Alan Tudyk) weave their way through the crowded streets of Jedha, a city once known for being a place where Force users could come express their beliefs. An ominous Imperial Star Destroyer hangs in the sky. We can hear the buzz of TIE Fighters in the sky if we listen closely. All of a sudden, an extremist band of Rebels ambushes an Imperial tank, and our heroes are left in the crossfire.

This scene is one of many in *Rogue One*, the first in the *Star Wars Anthology Series*, that manages to capture the look and feel of the original trilogy while creating a different tone, new characters, and a unique and different approach. *Rogue One* feels less like *A New Hope* and more like a war movie. In fact, director Gareth Edwards used the Vietnam War and D-Day as inspirations for the film's final battle.

Rogue One centers around a group of dysfunctional Rebel spies who must retrieve the plans to the Empire's new super weapon called the Death Star. The story will sound familiar to *Star Wars* fans, as it is described in the opening title crawl for *A New Hope*. It's a good story by itself, and it adds weight to the events of the original movie. It details the amount of pain and sacrifice that was made to get these plans, which makes a viewing of the original much better.

As far as acting goes, the acting in *Rogue One* is great, but not as good as the acting in *The Force Awakens*. Felicity

Jones, who portrays heroine Jyn Erso, Diego Luna, who plays Cassian Andor, and Alan Tudyk, who plays K2SO, are the standout performances. They bring dimension to the characters who show that the Rebellion isn't as squeaky clean as the original films made it out to be. In fact, within the first few minutes of the film, Andor murders an innocent man for the good of the Rebellion.

Star Wars' trademark special effects once again shine here. Gareth Edwards captures the scope and scale of many ships perfectly. One of the best shots in this movie shows the Death Star juxtaposed against a fleet of Star Destroyers. This shot really captures the scale of the Death Star, which is described as a small moon in *A New Hope*, because it compares it to the already huge Star Destroyers. The film also showcases some of the best CGI seen in any movie to this date. It's amazing that the special effects team managed to realistically recreate two actors not present on set, despite all of the controversy around the choice. It looks real, and it's a shame that other directors haven't used CGI to their advantage considering the progression this technology has made.

The villains in *Rogue One* are average as far as *Star Wars* villains go. The main antagonist, Orson Krennic (Ben Mendelsohn), is an OK villain by himself, but he has wasted potential compared to Kylo Ren. Nonetheless, an interesting aspect of Krennic's character is that Tarkin (Peter Cushing) actually usurps Krennic's position as leader of the operations of the Death Star,

which allows the viewer to sympathize with Mendelsohn's character. The other prominent antagonistic figure in this movie is Darth Vader. He isn't as much as a focus as Krennic is, but towards the end he gets a scene that ranks as one of his best scenes in the entire series.

Rogue One is a great film. It creates a story separate from the story of the Skywalkers that still manages to tie up many loose ends. It introduces many new fan favorite characters while including familiar ones at the same time. I would deem *Rogue One* the third best in the series, behind *A New Hope* and *The Empire Strikes Back*. I would only recommend this to *Star*



ROGUE LEADER, STANDING BY: The promotional poster for *Rogue One*, the first live-action *Star Wars* film not to follow the main storyline of the primary episodes.

Wars fans, however, because a casual viewer may be lost in some of the pre-established lore.

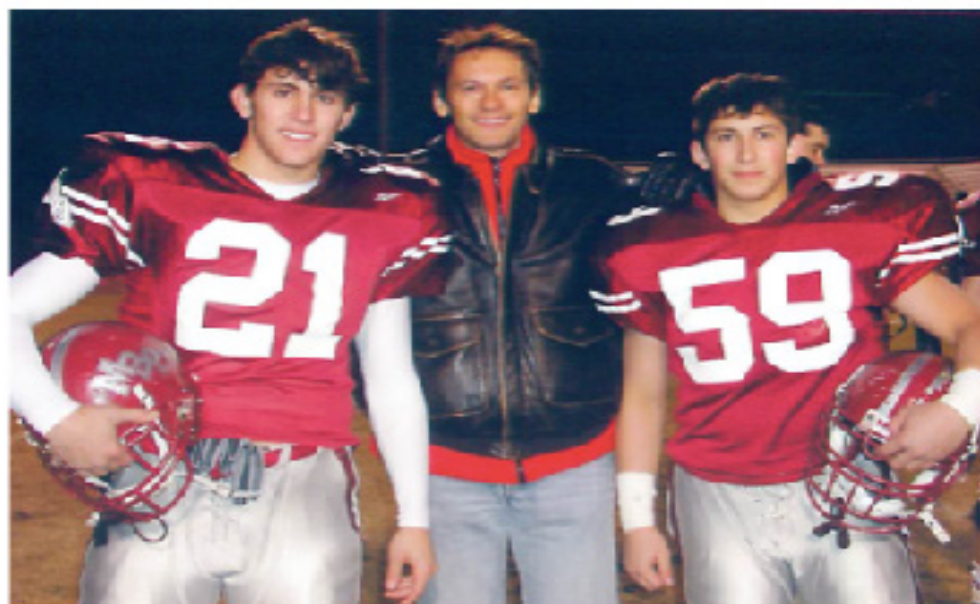
Score 9.5/10.



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Cont. from Front Page

Connor Kolstad secured 5th. Connor and his partner Will King made it to semifinals of the tournament before losing a close round to a Georgia team. Not only did MBA "speak pretty," as Mr. Clark likes to say, in the Novice Section, but it also had an impressive showing in Varsity. Ben Rosenthal secured 3rd speaker and Jablonski got 6th. Out of a pool of 9th to 12th graders, Sam Funk impressively secured the 10th speaker position. Unlike normal tournaments, Ben Jablonski and Ben Rosenthal teamed up to form a very formidable partnership. They advanced all the way to finals, ending with a close loss to a top 5 team in the nation. Two teams of sophomores also made it to the elimination rounds with the team of William Bradford and Jack Harrington making it Double Octo Finals, and the pair of Sam Funk and Jack Rankin advancing to Octofinals. In both divisions, MBA showed just how strong of a team we are.

Once a year, MBA hosts our own tournament called the Billy Tate Southern Bell Forum, honoring MBA's former debate coach Billy Tate. The best teams from all over the country come to Nashville to face off in one of the most competitive tournaments of the year. Usually debate tournaments are rushed and tiring, with rounds going as late as 11 p.m. sometimes. However, MBA's tournament is known for its relaxing schedule and its great food. This year, two of MBA's own partnerships debated. The duo of Ben Jablonski and John Cooper went 4-2 in prelims and finished in the Sweet Sixteen, earning a bid to the tournament of champions. Julian Habermann and Aden Barton went 5-1

in prelims, defeating two top 5 teams in the nation on the way. After winning the octo finals round, the partnership lost in quarterfinals to a team they had beaten in prelims. The talented duo of debaters from Peninsula High School won the tournament for the second year in a row, the first time ever in Billy Tate Southern Bell Forum history where two debaters have won the tournament two years in a row.

For their first tournament of the 2017 year, Andrew Kaplan and Ben Rosenthal have set off to Georgia for the Pace Round Robin and the Emory tournament. Hopefully, they will defend their title and be able to defeat Peninsula for the third time in a row.

I sat down with senior debater Andrew Kaplan to discuss the change of MBA's debate program over the past few years: "Over the past four years, the MBA debate team has changed dramatically. Coach Clark's arrival my freshman year was definitely transformative for the team's structure and dynamic. The most significant factor was the internal competition between the debaters -- guys like Rosenthal, Cooper, Jameson, and me. As junior and senior year rolled around, we began to reach new levels of success on a national scale."

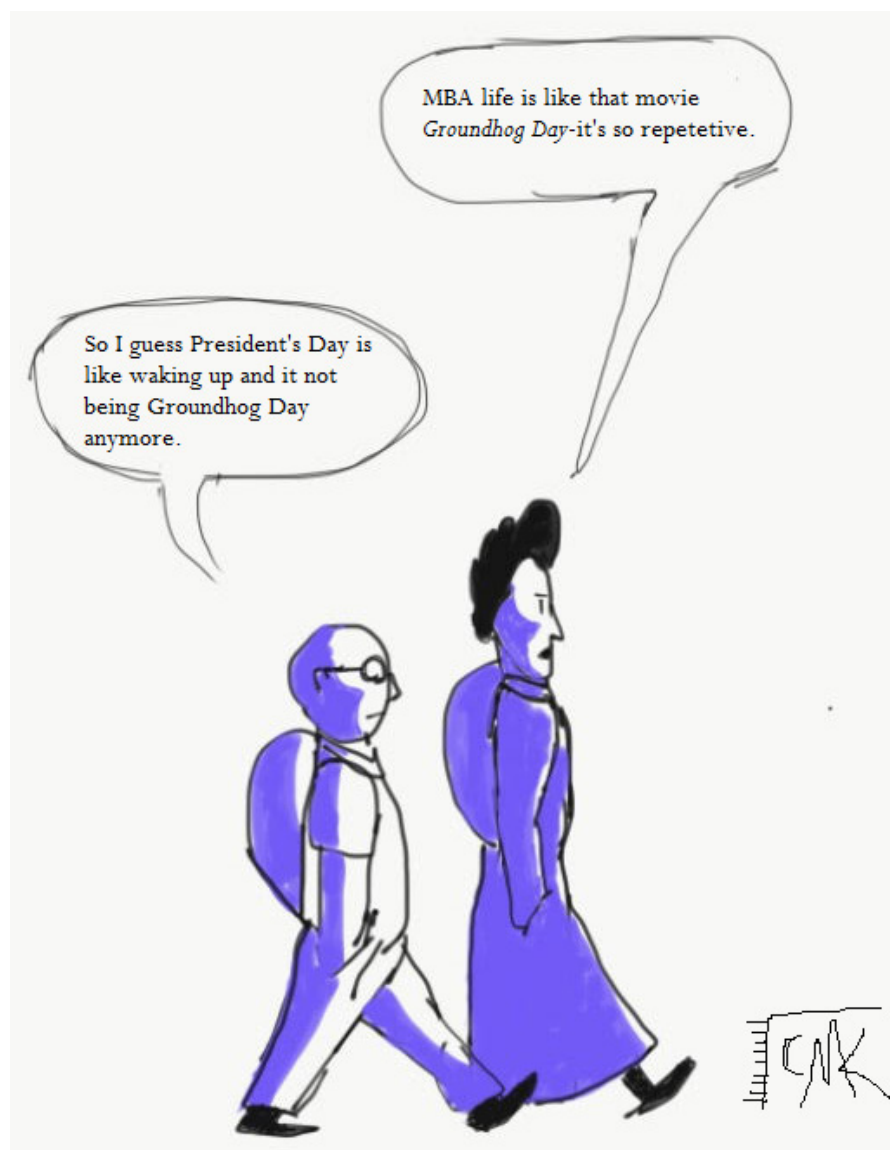
The MBA debate team has taken up several famous sayings from the Michigan Football Team. Mr. Clark's favorite is "Those who stay will be champions," as Bo Schembechler famously said. Every year this motto seems to be more true. However, as Andrew Kaplan says it, is more than just staying on the debate team that makes somebody successful, it's the



THEY WILL COME: MBA and the nation's top debate duo, Ben Rosenthal and Andrew Kaplan, debating in front of a crowd at a tournament at Emory University.

intense struggle of losing debate after debate until you find how to win." The more competitive rounds Ben and I were a part of, the better we got at getting an edge in high level debates. There is really no way to win high level debates other than by reaching high level debates in late elimination rounds of tournaments and getting absolutely crushed. Ben and I lost important debates frequently last year, but those defeats gave us the experience necessary to make smart decisions and execute in debate rounds as effectively

as possible. In my opinion, the hardest component of winning these debates is gaining an ability to read the judges' perceptions of various arguments." This year is the first year in a long time that MBA has the chance and perhaps even the odds to take the national championship; only time will tell to see if this momentum continues.



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Ultimate Remains Popular Alternative Sport

By Matt Kaplan
Staff Thrower

"Make sure you're running through the disc."

"Keep that pivot foot down."

"Ultimate is fun."

These are just some of the words you might hear if you strolled through Tommy Owen Stadium any day from Monday to Friday during these winter months. During the fall, yes, football practices and Friday-night thrillers flood the stadium named after MBA's own former football coach, Tommy Owen. But after the Big Red Sea travels to Cookeville and back, no more football games are played on

our turf. It is then that another team uses Tommy Owen Stadium as its training ground.

This team may be less well known but nonetheless has plenty of work to put in every day. The MBA Ultimate Frisbee A Team is made up of the top frisbee players on the Hill. Every day they compete with each other for fun, and to get better. This team, which consists of all experienced players, played in a one-day tournament at MBA. The team won two games and lost three, although two of their losses came on the final point. Coach Russ said of the tournament, "For a decade now, the MBA One-Day tournament has provided an opportunity for high school teams to

play early season games at no cost (most tournaments involve a sizeable fee).

This year's tournament was particularly competitive with no single dominant team and almost all games contested to the final point." The A Team will also soon play in a tournament in Chattanooga.

The soft, cold air breezes through the field, carrying the disc in a direction that maybe the thrower did not want it to go. The disc goes up, high in the air. Then it stops, as if it has hit some sort of wall. It gently, then forcefully, falls backwards, with the front directly tilted up, and three young men attempt to make a play, to catch the disc. Such a throw might have come from a B Team player, who, without

as much skill and experience, fights every day to improve. A B Team's practice includes some drills and some playing. When asked about his mindset going to practice every day, freshman Grayson Adams said, "I just go out there every day wanting to have fun and improve." It is indeed true that such a message has resonated to many players on the team. When the playing comes, that's when the thrill arrives for these less experienced, yet no less committed, disc throwers. The B Team has not played any games this year besides the intrasquad scrimmages that frequent the 40 yards closest to the tennis courts. While they were excited to play in the one-day tournament, learning that they weren't going to be able to

didn't discourage them. Matt Hawkins said of being the only consistently practicing B Team around Nashville, "The experience of our unique opportunity makes us appreciate every practice as an advantage for us to work with incredible coaches and develop our skill for greater success." He further said, "Being the only B Team always ready to play inspires us to strive for improvement."

Most don't know if they will get a chance to play in a game against another school this year, but make no mistake, they'll be ready. Until then, the B Team fights hard to get better every day, as Adams mentioned. The A Team guys certainly remember being a young B Team player who had to work his way to a slot on the A Team. Speedster A Team phenom, Junior Charlie Ma, said of being a young player, "Under the leadership of Coach Hannon and Coach Russ, even the most uncoordinated and unathletic freshman can learn the flick." Grayson Adams said that he trusts the process that these coaches put the team through throughout the years.

Coach Hannon said of the team this year, "The Ultimate team this year looks very promising. With a mixture of experience and young talent, the team is poised to contend with each and every team we face. We have already shown that we can contend and look to carry that effort and focus into our last two major tournaments of the year in Chattanooga and Knoxville." Indeed, the team has competed in hard in every game they've played this year, and look forward to continue doing so at their next two tournaments of the year.

ULTIMATE IS FUN: Christopher Owen '17 locked in combat with an opposing player as he strives to find an open teammate and make a difficult pass.



Big Red Hockey Dominates Rink

By Robert Cowan
Staff Ice Monster

Two years. Two years ago was the last time the MBA hockey team lost a regular season game. The last time the Big Red lost a regular season game was January 28, 2015. Since then, the boys have only lost three games and all of these games were in the playoffs. It's 2017, and the boys did not let the momentum that was gained from the end of 2016 stop. The second half of the GNASH season started in early January with Father Ryan's trying to end the unprecedented streak. From the start of the game, it looked like the streak would come to an end. Father Ryan scored first after some sloppy play from the boys, but that sparked the fire for the Big Red and they played the fastest game in team history (that I know of). The Big Red scored 11 unanswered goals in 17 minutes of playing time. The game ended with 5 minutes still remaining in the second period. The next game the Big Red ran all over Blackman-Stewarts-Creek,

winning 10-1. Next, was a rematch against Ravenwood, and if you were at the game, it was a very interesting fan base. Ravenwood's fan were very entertaining, but their spirits were crushed when Blake "Robi" Robison scored to break the tie and spark the 4 unanswered goals to help the Big Red when the game 5-1. After Ravenwood, the dominance continued with a 10-0 rout against Ensworth.

Captain Jacob Kovick is very optimistic about the rest of the season, saying, "We just have to keep playing with the same relentless and unforgiving play style that wins us games because, eventually, there will be a tough game and we will need to be able to respond." Adding later, "We're just sick. Nobody can come close to us when we play our game." Coach Deutsch had this to say about this special team: "This is very special group of young men. A club with their talent, work ethic, and



ICE PUPS: The Big Red Varsity hockey team basks in glory after winning the GNASH cup for the second year in a row.

spirit does not come along very often in high school hockey. They have made a statement of their league dominance each game so far. But, we have a long way to go. The players know to take it one shift at a time. The state final game is not until March 10. We plan to be there."

The final leg of the regular season is upon us; the Big Red has four games

of January 29. If the boys win the next two, they will secure the GNASH Cup for the second year in a row and will be the first seed for the State Playoffs. Hopefully, on March 10, the Big Red will be returning for a third year in a row to the Championship game and get the win this year!

Battle-Tested Big Red Basketball

By Palmer Thombs
Assistant Sports Editor

Basketball season is well underway on the Hill, and the Big Red ballers are off to a 13-7 start. MBA, returning three starters and numerous role players from last year's team, started the season off with a convincing 65-47 win over Franklin Road Academy. Led by juniors Thomas Carr and Drew Weikert, the Big Red followed up the opening win by defeating Hillwood High School and Lead Academy by 28 and 30 points, respectively.

When asked about the difference between this year's team and last year's 10-16 squad, junior captain Will Nutter said, "We are playing more as a team this year than we did last season. More people are contributing and scoring to help us out."

MBA took their 3-0 record on the road to Memphis to take on Division II-AA foes Memphis University School and Christian Brothers. Unfortunately, the Big Red lost both of those games in tough battles.

About the trip, Carr said, "We came out slow against MUS and we feel like we could have won both of the games. We've put a stake in the ground from then on, and we've told ourselves that we are not going to fool around. We are going to come out strong and play our best in every game."

The Big Red certainly followed up on their words by rattling off seven straight wins following the Memphis trip. Non-conference wins over USN, Stratford, Hume-Fogg, and Hunter's Lane all before taking a break for the holidays had MBA on track for success. Carr

SENIORS: The leaders of the Big Red Basketball team (top left to bottom right): Brad Hornsby, Jarrett Knight, Haden Wachtler, Will Hoffman, Michael Lee, Jackson Owen, and Jack Hornsby.

cited the team's intensity, physicality, and all around team efforts following the Memphis trip woes as reasons for success.

Following the week off to celebrate the holidays with family, MBA returned to action in one of the mid-state's top holiday tournaments, the Beech Holiday Invitational. Montgomery Bell opened tournament play with a 62-56 win over East Nashville Magnet. In the semifinals, the Big Red took on one of the state's top teams in Station Camp. MBA stepped up to the challenge and dominated the Bison in the 64-32 rout. Up next for the Big Red was tournament host Beech. Twenty-seven points from Drew Weikert on a night of hot shooting led the Big Red to the win in the championship. Weikert was named tournament MVP, while Thomas Carr, Will Nutter, and Hayden Wachler took home all-tournament honors.

With the tournament championship under their belt, MBA rolled into conference play. Division II-AA looked to be a challenging league for the 2017 season with stars returning all around the league, so the Big Red would have to play their best night in and night out to compete. The Big Red's seven game winning streak came to an end with their meeting with the McCallie Blue Tornado. It was a tight one to the end, but the Chattanooga team pulled away in the fourth quarter for the 62-41 victory over MBA. Following the loss, the team knew what was ahead of them. The early loss in conference play put them in a hole and they knew that it would be a challenge to find their team identity, but it was something that must be done in order to compete in league

play.

MBA had a quick turnaround after the snow postponed game with McCallie and had to travel two nights later to Baylor. After trailing for the majority of the game, MBA took a late lead before the Red Raiders responded to force the game to overtime. After trading baskets for all of overtime, Alexander Roberts was fouled with 0.5 seconds remaining in the game. He nailed the first of his two free throws before intentionally missing his second one to force time to run out. His free throw was the difference in the 54-53 win for the Big Red.

Another quick turnaround for MBA resulted in another win for the Big Red the following day in the Music City Classic. Faced with the challenge of one of the nation's top sophomores and a top five team in the state of Kentucky, the Big Red were up for the battle with Scott County (KY). The Big Red trailed at the end of each of the first three quarters, but never stopped fighting. Highlighted by their eleven made three pointers, MBA was

able to escape with another one point win. Senior big man Brad Hornsby stepped up and played a big role in the win alongside the team's star juniors.

The week after the Baylor and Scott County wins brought an end to the momentum that the Big Red had built. Blowing a late lead against Pope John Paul II, an injury to starter Alexander Roberts, and a blowout loss to the defending state champions, the Brentwood Academy Eagles, were all a part of the rough week for MBA. But the Big Red faced the adversity head on and responded by defeating the Father Ryan Irish on their court, 51-36



DUNK: Thomas Carr '18 going for the gold.

with senior Michael Lee in the starting lineup.

Following the win over the Irish, the Big Red took on the Ensworth Tigers on their campus. With the return of Alexander Roberts to the lineup, MBA led at the end of each of the first three quarters. Despite being undersized compared to the Tigers, the Big Red were able to dominate in the paint on both ends of the court. But in the fourth quarter, things changed and Ensworth was able to come back and defeat MBA, 51-45. The following day Montgomery Bell travelled to Chattanooga to take on McCallie for a rematch. Once again, the Blue Tornado were able to come away with the victory over the Big Red.

Ahead for MBA are more difficult league games against Father Ryan, JP II, Baylor, Brentwood Academy and Ensworth. The Big Red are looking to secure the third place in the Middle/East Region in order to have a good spot in the playoffs. Sitting at 2-5 in the league currently, that task will be a challenge, but with a couple of wins down the stretch that challenge could become a reality. Carr said, "Taking care of the winnable games is the number one key to a successful run down the stretch. It would always be nice to steal a game, but you have got to beat the teams that you know you can beat." MBA has a tough road ahead of them if they want to return to the Final Four at Lipscomb's Allen Arena for the first time since 2013, but this battle tested team is up for the challenge.



Tennessee Titans Take on Tough Challenges

By Jack Smartt
Staff Titan

After the hiring of General Manager Jon Robinson in January of last year, the Tennessee Titans improved from the laughing-stock of the NFL to one of the most exciting and promising teams in the league. The Titans exceeded all expectations and had their first winning season since 2011. The primary cause of an unsuccessful franchise is instability within the organization. From 2010 to 2015, the Titans had 4 head coaches, 2 general managers, and endless ownership disputes. With new general manager Jon Robinson and head coach Mike Mularkey, the Titans look to be on their way to cohesion within the organization.

As Titans fans have seen over the past year, Jon Robinson is not afraid to shuffle the roster. Fans should expect the same in the 2017 offseason. The first priority of the offseason begins on March 9 when free agency starts. The Titans addressed the 2016 free agency perfectly, not going for any stars but attaining solid starters who can affect the team immediately. Starters such as Ben Jones, Rishard Matthews, Brice McCain, and Rashad Johnson were signed to favorable contracts for the team. None of them were stars or big name free agents but they all came in and contributed. Another similarity was that they were all signed to positions of need at the time. Jon Robinson is sure to take a similar approach with this free agency class. Possible free agent positions of need are wide receiver, nose tackle, cornerback, and defensive end. While the Titans may not go after big name stars such as Alshon Jeffery or Jason Pierre-Paul, they

could target mid-tier guys such as Robert Woods. The ideal strategy would be accumulating solid starters through free agency and getting big name stars through the draft.

Although free agency and trades are very significant, the NFL draft is how a franchise builds a Super Bowl contender. The Titans have the 5th and the 18th picks in the first round along with two 3rd-round picks, a 4th-round pick, a 5th-round pick, and a 7th-round pick. The primary concern for the Titans is their two 1st-round picks. To be a Super Bowl contender in years to come, the Titans would need to nail the 2017 draft. Almost every team that reaches the elite level in the NFL has two consecutive off-seasons where they are extremely successful in terms of free agency and draft picks. The 2016 off-season definitely was spectacular, but the Titans need to make sure this one counts. If the Titans keep the 5th pick, it is suspected that they will take Mike Williams out of Clemson or Jonathan Allen out of Alabama pending on if they are available. The most popular outcome among Titans fans is Mike Williams. Although one may speculate that Robinson would not take Williams due to his background with the New England Patriots who have a reputation of getting receivers of the scrapheap, Robinson did take Mike Evans with the 7th pick in the 2014 draft during his time with Tampa Bay. Williams is probably the most likely outcome at 5th unless Robinson chooses to trade down and upgrade the secondary.

The last issue that the Titans front office will have to deal with is the decision to keep players who have expiring contracts. Here are the Titans from last year's team

with expiring contracts: Kendall Wright, Chance Warmack, Anthony Fasano, Rashad Johnson, Sean Spence, Karl Klug, Byron Bell, Matt Cassel, Brian Schwenke, Valentino Blake, and Daimion Stafford.

Although the Titans are weak at wide receiver, the organization has made it clear that they are moving on from the injury-prone Kendall Wright. This leaves a gaping hole at wide receiver as the Titans will only have 4 wide receivers on the roster going into free agency (Rishard Matthews, Tajae Sharpe, Tre McBride, and Harry Douglas).

McBride has barely even seen the field and Douglas is old although still a solid backup. Their weak wide receiving core supports the Mike Williams argument even further as you really only have 2 wide receivers who you want to get decent playing time. The Titans will also most likely not resign Johnson and Cassel since Johnson was benched for rookie Kevin Byard and Alex Tanney is planned to be Mariota's backup instead of Cassel. Spence and Blake are interesting since they are two solid backups who played well this year and have a good relationship with defensive coordinator Dick Lebeau. Warmack will probably get resigned due to Robinson's affection for the offensive line and offensive line depth specifically. Warmack



TITAN: Titans quarterback Marcus Mariota caught in a moment of unabashed joy.

has been a major disappointment to Titans fans although he looked solid in the first few games before he got hurt.

The Titans desperately need to nail the upcoming offseason in order to make sure that they capitalize off an immensely successful 2016 offseason. Jon Robinson has a great deal of crucial decisions to make but he has proven to know what to do when a circumstance presents itself. Be ready for a playoff run from the Tennessee Titans next season.



Ingram Strives to Secure Local Soccer Team

By Jack Capizzi
Entertainment Editor

“Nashville has a truly passionate fan base and is a proven major league sports town. Nashville is ready for the world’s biggest sport, played at the highest level.”

So speaks John Ingram, an MBA Alum who has stood at the forefront of the movement to bring Major League Soccer to Nashville. Although a daunting task, the odds of Nashville shining its lights on a professional soccer team in the near future are becoming increasingly likely.

The MLS has announced plans to move Major League Soccer teams to Minneapolis and Atlanta next season and are already looking for where to expand the twenty-two team league next. The MLS is at the forefront the American soccer world, a realm that has been gaining popularity in the US over the last decade. With the success of our national team, the viewing availability of international leagues through TV channels or streaming services, and even games like Fifa, soccer has broken through to become America’s most viewed sport outside of the big four.

Major League soccer desires to enter the pantheon of American sports (baseball, basketball, football, and hockey) and rival the soccer leagues across the Atlantic in Europe. However, this process is no easy feat. Leagues such as the English Premier League are steeped in tradition that dates back to the late nineteenth century. This time advantage has allowed their four-tiered league system, which includes things such as relegation and cup tournaments in between, to evolve into a fully functioning organism. The United States, however, does not have this tradition or the league system in place to rival the European competitions. Yet.

Many pundits and spokespeople of the international soccer world have often spoken on the MLS fondly, giving it praise for its quick rise, but being quick to add criticism to the areas in which it needs improvement. Current Bayern München head coach and former Champions League winning manager, Carlo Ancelotti, said of the MLS in an interview in late January, “I think the fact that there is no relegation hurts, because it’s demotivating.” The term relegation refers to a system wherein the bottom three teams of the league are “relegated” to the division below and three teams from that division are placed in the higher league each season. Ancelotti’s comments are nothing new to the MLS as both current and former U.S. national team managers, Bruce Arena and Jurgen Klinsmann, have both contributed to the American’s lack of success to the lack of a threat of doing poorly. If this system were applied to other sports such as the NFL, the Cleveland Browns and Tennessee Titans (most seasons) would be urged to better in fear of losing their spot in the league therefore driving better competition.

In order for relegation to have the possibility of becoming a reality, the MLS will need to solidify a certain number of about twenty-five teams. Nashville could be one of these last few.

The MLS has publicly stated that in 2020, they will expand once again, increasing the league’s depth by two or three teams. As the MLS wants to be spread somewhat evenly across the nation, they have given a selection of leading cities that are grouped by region. The cities Nashville would need to stave off would be Cincinnati and St. Louis. Cincinnati has not made any major moves toward securing this spot, while St. Louis has been in the news of late, regarding the latest sport that may be coming to their town. New Missouri

Governor, Navy Seal, and former MBA Father-Son dinner speaker, Eric Greitens, publicly staved off the attempts to build an MLS stadium from a private company that would require governmental taxation to be allocated towards the building. This would be one of the problems Nashville may face in eventually bringing a team to Music City.

A new team requires a new stadium that would most likely need to be built from scratch. This would, as most stadiums do, require money being allocated from the government to build the stadium, an action that many would be opposed to.

Although St. Louis and Cincinnati have neither shown signs of desire for an MLS club, John Ingram of Nashville has been leading a public charge at tackling the task of giving Nashville a professional soccer club.

While the final expansion is far off, the addition of a professional soccer team to Nashville would be tremendous. Already the scene of a host of international soccer matches, Nashville has become one of the go to venues for the US national team to play at. Adding to this resume, Nashville will be hosting a few matches from the CONCACAF Gold cup this



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS: John Ingram “84 has spearheaded the charge to bring a major league soccer team to Nashville

summer, the biggest tournament that will have ever graced Nissan Stadium.

Nashville has a football team, a hockey team, a minor league baseball team, and three Division 1 colleges. It is also home to one of the most popular arenas in the United States, Bridgestone Arena, that has seen its own All-Star hockey game and entertainment performances from the world’s biggest stars. However, there is still something missing.

Nashville is certainly ready, but will it get the MLS team it deserves?

TALKS: Nashville’s chances of landing an MLS team just went way up thanks to this stellar team of Will Alexander ‘98, Bill Hagerty (current parent), MLS President Mark Abbott, Mayor Barry, and John Ingram ‘79.



Freshmen Make Way from Ditch to Nearby Inn

By Aden Barton, Matt Kaplan, and Zach Brown
Staff Pueris

The freshmen have been busy with their continuous diligent studies inside and outside the classroom. For starters, the class of 2020 entered the semester with 11 service hours. Quite a disappointment to everyone involved. After a brutal class meeting, where the faculty lectured the class about this embarrassment, somehow the class gained over 300 service hours in a matter of only part of a school day. Historians are calling it magnificent.

This was not the only magnificent change to take place. A certain biology teacher promised vast changes to make his “class” seem like a real class. The effects of actually having homework took its toll on some students, namely **Ike Cravens**. Instead of listening to “bangers” all period, Ike must now hurriedly rush through the homework that is due that day. **Samuel Kirkpatrick** has thwarted the other promised “change.” Speaking of Samuel Kirkpatrick, it is fair to say that the class mourned the loss of its favorite tag team that disbanded so recently. Unfortunately, that wasn’t

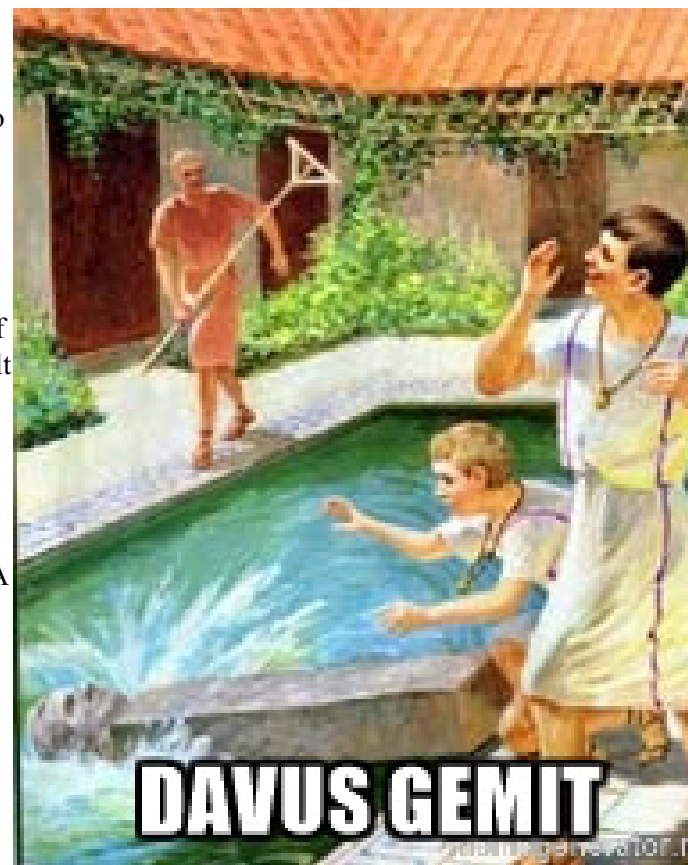
our biggest loss recently. **Noah Mendoza** is alone for the first time in nearly two years, sparking a stream of Snapchat and Instagram stories in what was nearly an uprising.

After this historical start to the month of January, the winter formal frenzy kicked off. Everyone hoped to be asked to winter formal, yet unfortunately, not all of us were able to enjoy a movie night full of back support at Harpeth Hall. Other than the lack of chairs, most would agree it was actually a pretty fun night. Truthfully, everyone’s backs are already broken out of shape from years of the backpack. Anyways, some people got asked, some people did not, and if you’re cool like **Michael Hoffman**, maybe you get asked to more than one, and then somehow only one, who knows. It seems that there is a winter formal every weekend now, as everyone prepares to go to the dance with someone they may or may not really know. On the topic of winter formals, **Brown Payne** and **Clayton Malone** have yet to have their formal duel, and it is already winter and formal.

The class of 2020 now has to embark on some extracurricular adventures, as we all begin to sort

of maybe think that we should be thinking about college. According to **Brennan Minkoff**, all we have to do to get into college or really succeed in life at all is to recycle. Or is it to be a part of some secret cult of hidden messages in the recycling emails? Who really knows about college, though, as long as you can play the GPA game? Trying to stay ahead of the game, **Spencer Grohovsky** and **Jack Silvester** willingly take on the challenge of mock trial. They must have been inspired to Grind Like Pete. Speaking of grinding, that really is the stretch we are in right now, the grind to Spring Break.

The writers of this article sincerely hope that everyone pushes through to



SHENANIGANS: Two rambunctious freshmen push a statue into a pool as Mr. McMahan gives them demerits from across the way for “conduct unbecoming a gentleman.”

Spring Break on two feet, and they feel that the class would be overjoyed if the squad from #SB2K15 got back together. Good luck everyone.

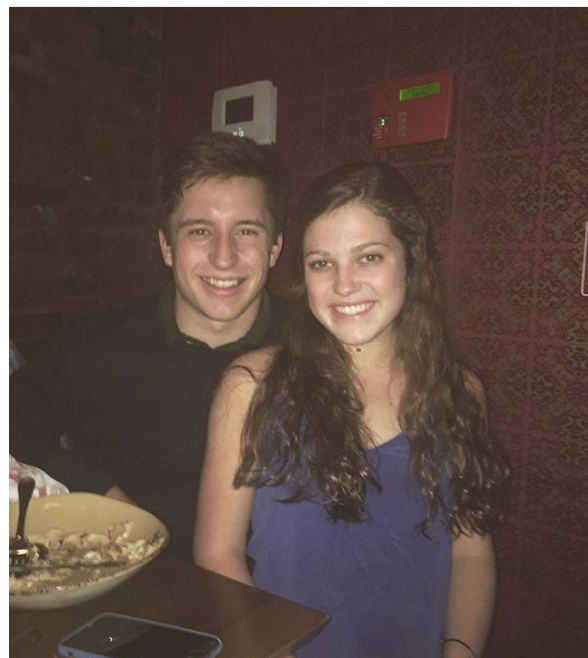
Sophomores Have Only One Voice

By Sam Dugan
Staff Sophomore

The year 2017 has been a year of ups and downs for the MBA sophomores. Yet o far, the L-per-week average has gone down significantly. Perhaps because Trump is president.

One man, however, has stood above all, and he has been identified by the name “Beegje.” So far this year, his scheming has caused for much chaos within the class and the city of Nashville altogether. His most recent

LOVE CONNECTION: Sam Dugan ‘19 enjoys a salad with a lady friend.



victims have been as follows: OK, BS, NS, RW, MAW, and LC. Be on the lookout for this man. His body type has only been described as “beefy” by authorities. He has been seen with a large Neanderthal man formerly known as “Big Head,” and a man identified as “Rusty Crowbar.” We can only hope and pray that this assassin will be found and convicted for this crimes.

In other news, the Battle of Shirts has raged on between classmates **Garrett Murphy** and **William**

Wheeler. Over the past few weeks, the two men have had a competition to see who can go the longest without taking off their shirts. Due to habits we all know of, this task is very difficult for these two individuals. Murphy with a 92.56% SOP (Shirt Off Percentage), is holding a slight lead over Wheeler (95.4% SOP). We will continue to follow this situation very closely over the next few weeks.

As with college football, the winding down of the NFL season comes with great heartbreak for our classmates. Luckily for **William Davis**, he does not have an NFL

team, so he could not take any more L’s. God bless his Soul. It’s been rough for him. However, for **Gibby Gibson**, he took the biggest L of all. He is, of course, is a Cowboys fan. Gibby Gibson, although a bandwagon, was ripping hair from his head when **Aaron “The Phenom” Rodgers** single-handedly ended their dream season with his cannon. I suppose Gibby became a Patriots fan following “his team’s” defeat. **I, Sam Dugan**, being a Packers fan myself, can relate to Gibby in ways. My team was also scorched by an opposing quarterback, **Matt Ryan** of the Falcons. But what do you expect when the team had half the roster carted off on stretchers by the end of the season, and a Defensive Lineman playing Right Guard. Though my team did not end up winning, I was able to look Gibby in the face and proclaim victory following the Divisional Round, and that, to me, is a true victory for the class as a whole. In reality, no one is alone in this battle, considering the great debacle of Nashville’s own Tennessee Titans this season.

The Class of 2019 can hardly wait for the April 8 rave, DrawgzFest, hosted by 2019’s very own DJ Drawgz. Sadly, the driver will not be attending. The event will have great music accompanied by a world famous light show, similar to that of

mainstream group, the Chainsmokers. DJ Drawgz is an experienced DJ and performer, having done work for various birthday parties, along with the end of the week bash at Vanderbilt Summer Academy. Both Harpeth Hall and St. Cecilia are invited to the rave, so there is sure to be plenty of females. I hear **Bubba “Jackson” Lampley** is looking to find a new girlfriend after **Cooper Maddox** stole his old one, and **Braden Myers** is sure to continue his usual antics as the grade’s ladies’ man. Who knows what will go down at this exciting venue? One thing we do know is that the dancing will not disappoint. Also, midway through the show, there will be a DJ Drawgz t-shirt throw out by the man himself. This event will be unlike one this grade has ever witnessed and will not be called a “mixer.” We hope for a record turnout, and we know how anxious the class is for the day to arrive. Admission will be \$10 for all students from the 3 schools, and the concert will take place in one of the gyms. More details will be released soon.

We hope to continue on the upward trend we’ve been on since the start of 2017. Be on the lookout for more Class of 2019 news.

Junior Class Responsible for Everything

By Thomas Carr
Staff Dunker

The third quarter has seen another outstanding performance by the junior class. In the athletic spectrum, many athletes are in full form. Leading the charge is none other than **Alexander Sh-Sh-Sh-Shackleford Roberts**. His performance under concussion protocol was one for the history books, as he seemed even more lost than usual--a hard feat to accomplish for the zombie himself. Meanwhile the rest of the basketball team is on the brink of an enormous win, though continually worked by very knowledgeable refs.

Obviously winter formal is a major topic in this day and age. **Jackson McFadden** has somebody new on his "Rader," while a few of our fellow classmates played down and attended the big dance with some ladies from the prestigious sophomore class. Unfortunately for **Philip Scholer**, his girl **Julia** is heading back to Argentina, but everyone else's Julia will be staying right here in Nashville. Many of our beloved classmates secured

hard sought after W's such as the infamous **Cal Bryan**. A huge W came from the likes of young Neymar himself: **Colin Snell**. His brilliance was shown on this night as suited up for the Brazilian national team and acquired a World Cup sized W. Another winner of the night was **Ty Allen** as he showed his true colors by sporting his traditional German attire. Speaking of outfits, **Ruff Maddux** expressed his Irish roots with a hat and glasses combo that was one for the ages. These class greats were sadly accompanied by a few classmates that took some tough L's during the night. This great group of gentlemen may be down on themselves at the moment, but they are in good company with this great 2018 class.

Another big topic in recent weeks was the Super Bowl between **Jackson Abbey's** New England Patriots and the Atlanta Falcons. Although these two are only a portion of the league's 32 teams, they all went together in this epic battle.

In the local athletics realm, the Big Red juniors have thrived, to say the

least. From real basketball to church ball, the 11th grade has put on a clinic, as the class of Westminister '05 utterly annihilated the MBA 12th graders in their most recent battle at Calvary Methodist Church. Led by **Rob Harvey** and **the Pollock twins**,

Westminister made the junior class proud. Unfortunately, two people demonstrated poor athletic ability, as **Wesley Hall** and **Palmer Thombs** got absolutely shown up by SCA girls in a bowling match. Wes could use some tips from class bowling



UNCLE MATT: Juniors Alex Renkis and Joseph Hatcher feast after the inauguration trip on forty McDonalds nuggets in a meal fit for kings.

stud Ben Coulthard in order to improve his lowly score of 36.

All in all, the class of 2018 is making its way through the tough second semester as the end of the MBA journey and senior year appear ever so close on the horizon.

Senior Editors Never Meet Deadlines

By Barry B. Benson
Staff Pollen Jock

As the second semester is now in full swing, seniors are starting to find themselves bored and tired during the school day. Study halls are filled with 8-ball pool, chess, and naps in the Senior Room. However, if you're looking for a good laugh during study hall, search either "**Jack Hayles**," "**Frist Allen**," "**Michael Lee**," or "**Patrick Andreen**" followed by "**Hunt**" on Youtube.

The senior slide is taking full effect. There is little incentive to study or keep grades up, despite Mrs. Moon's warnings that she will send our final transcript to colleges. We have far more important things to do than homework. Clash of Clans, Xbox, Papi Trampoline, and Netflix are all necessities and come first. School can wait.

Signing day was a success, as we currently have 6 seniors going to play sports at the next level. Scratch that. **Barrett Brown**, defensive force, recently committed to Memphis. We have 7. Either way, the most important part of signing day, the cake, was so good. **Brett Starr** and **Aubrey Greene**, despite their widely proclaimed diets, let the cake get the best of them.

Streetmoney Cam Wade has done

very well for himself recently by betting on football games. He racked up by taking Clemson over 'Bama, and he racked up by taking the Falcons over the Packers. However, his soon demise seems apparent. He doesn't know when to stop, and having to make a big payout is the only way he will learn.

Cameron's biggest accomplishment recently was getting out of the fly trap. He had been stuck in the fly trap for months now, and he was ready to get out. When he said the words, "She reminds me of **Streety**," we knew it was time. However, it dragged along until Cam told her he was busy the night of her senior prom. Can't miss Rae Sremmurd.

An ongoing discussion has been circulating about legitimate reasons in which you can sign out for Headmaster's List. Can you go get food? What if you're craving a Three Musketeers bar?

While many seniors still aren't sure where they're going to school yet, Meep Meep **Cal Rieke** is 100% Auburn KA. Jesus went Auburn KA, and not going Auburn KA is just simply boring. There is no other fraternity in the country that comes anywhere close to Auburn KA. Actually, SMU SAE is comparable. Luckily, we have a few SAE autobids, so our class will be well represented.



HOYA SAXA: Andrew Kaplan (Georgetown 2021) charms his .date with his dazzling debate skills.

However, Cal isn't only excelling in terms of fraternity life. He has also been eating a ton and putting on a ton of weight. With a strict diet of pepperoni pizza and burgers, **Cal's** bulking goals are in sight. He needs to get big to protect his sister.

As usual, the Wallace School continues to get slaughtered on the ice. However, they've started to make a statement as a physical team that you

don't want to mess with. Ejections, fights, and locker room antics almost always culminate in a mercy rule, but at least they're having fun.

Once again, **Ben Gauldin** had a wild night at a dance. We are in awe of his consistency in being such a beast.

Montgomery Bell Academy: A Factual History

5 Billion BCE: MBA is created soon after the world is formed by the Big Bang.

572 CE: Mayans discover an uninhabited temple in North Tennessee and install themselves.

1000CE: Leader K'inich Ma'x Pa'schall forgets to sign the pledge and is smited by the great Honor Gods.

1492 CE: Columbus rediscovers MBA and claims it for Spain. Members of the "Spaniard School" invent "Crusader Relay" which would be adapted and later called "American Football."

1804 CE: Benjamin Franklin Jr. buys the property as part of the Louisiana Purchase, comissioning a statue 200 years in advance for the library to honor his father.

1805 CE: Benjamin Franklin Jr. names the school after his dog and his tendency to play with bells. The name Montgomery's Bells Academy (or Montgomery Bell Academy for short) sticks.

1823 CE: The first edition of *The Bell Breaker* is published to lukewarm reception.

1824 CE: The first edition of *The Bell Ringer* is published in response.

1850 CE: Sam Davis, the first winner of the Best Boy award in 1850, compulsively creates the Sam Davis Essay Contest for himself as a "senior gift" after graduating.

1866 CE: MBA celebrates its first Homecoming Dance, marking this year's as MBA's 150th celebration of the event.

1867 CE: All girls leave the originally co-ed school of MBA to create the Ward Seminary when their candidate for Student Body President is not elected.

1888 CE: Plans for a New Dining Hall begin to take shape but are abandoned when the current Headmaster cannot convince the board of its superiority to a natatorium.

1900 CE: "Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete" (Luke 9: 44-45) is discovered in an early edition of the Bible and adopted as the school motto.

1914 CE: To avoid the Great War, Mr. Gioia takes up his post as Headmaster.

1933 CE: Sage Dining Service is taken on and immediately insitutes Cookie Break, charging a measely 2 cents a unit.

1966 CE: Football game attendance made mandatory at MBA.

1982 CE: Mr. Gioia hires a group of personal Black Ops snipers to product the campus by titling their contracts "Maintenance."

1980 CE: Mr. Dan Herring arrives at MBA, hired for his promises to insitute a course called AP Radicalism.

1994 CE: Reese Witherspoon completes coursework at MBA but receives a Harpeth Hall diploma.

2002 CE: MBA freshman James Worth is expelled. His father Ends, a first cousin by marriage of the Frist family, founds a school named after himself.

2005 CE: *Pride and Prejudice*, a thinly disguised adaptation of Mr. Malcolm Morrison's early dating life, comes out on DVD.

2013 CE: New Dining Hall completed after more than a century of construction.

2015 CE: Dr. Rick Seay leaves MBA over artistic feud when Dr. Tim Boyd's mixtape drops.

2016 CE: *Only Love Can Break Your Heart*, Dr. Ed Tarkington's first novel, releases to rave reviews in *Garden and Gun*.

2017 CE: Ty Chandler signs to the University of Tennessee to play football.